



Radlett Art Society
Website - <http://www.radlett-art-society.co.uk/>

Dear Member

Since my last letter the country has remained in lockdown and our Society, like many others, has tried to make the membership worthwhile. Your Committee have been heartened by the fact that the great majority of members have renewed their subscription this year. I believe this is a tribute to the hard work of those who have put together the online lectures and demonstrations we have enjoyed this winter.



Recent news about the virus does, at last, give grounds for hope that we can resume our full programme of activities later this year though, when exactly, remains to be seen.

As you can see below, the next two lectures will be online and no visits have been planned until the trip to Shropshire in September. Our artist members will be disappointed to learn that there are still no plans to restart our weekly workshop or for an exhibition. Please bear with us. As soon as we can we will!

Meanwhile why not contribute to our "*Artist's Challenge*". Details are on the website and in this newsletter and your work will be exhibited there if you wish to take part.

My thanks to all our members for your support in these troubled times.

Adam Lewis
Chairman

AGM

The Society's AGM will take place on **Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 8pm** and will be held via Zoom. The papers and details for joining the meeting will be sent to members closer to the time. There will also be a mechanism for people who cannot use Zoom to cast any votes.

Future Lectures

March 4th – 7.45pm for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: The Golden Age of Mexican Painting

Lecturer: Chloe Sayer

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) and Diego Rivera (1886-1957) have iconic status in Mexico. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 swept away the old régime and banished European influence in the arts. Kahlo and Rivera, in their different ways, helped to shape the cultural identity of twentieth-century Mexico. Together they made Mexico a magnet for the rest of the world.

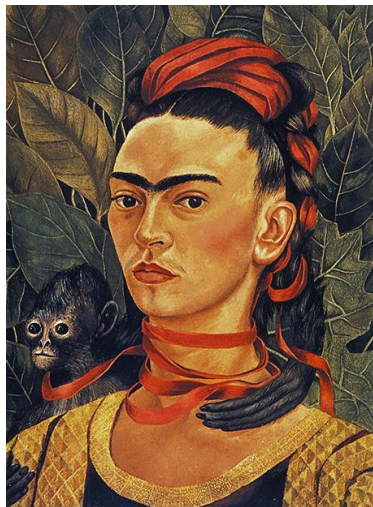


The Mexican mural movement, born during the 1920s, was destined to produce some of the greatest public art of the last century. Diego Rivera's panoramic images adorn the walls of public buildings, combining social criticism with a faith in human progress. Inspired by early Italian fresco painting, as well as by Aztec and Maya imagery, his intricate visual narratives incorporate allegory and

symbolism.

Compared with the monumental scale of Rivera's work, Kahlo's work is small in format. Arguably Mexico's most original painter, she made herself. The principal theme of her art. Her paintings reflect her experiences, dreams, hopes and fears.

In 2005 an estimated 340,000 visitors saw her retrospective at Tate Modern. Photographs of Frida were simultaneously exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery under the title *Frida Kahlo: Portraits of an Icon*. In 2011, the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester hosted an exhibition of their work: *Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Masterpieces from the Gelman Collection*. In 2018, the Victoria and Albert Museum showed paintings, photographs and clothing for the exhibition *Frida Kahlo: Making Herself Up*. The accompanying lecture series was organised by Chloë. She also contributed to the exhibition catalogue, which is still on sale.



Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera were married in 1929. Their turbulent marriage and the turbulent times they lived through are the subject of the film *Frida* (USA, 2002). They are key figures in *The Lacuna*, a historical novel published in 2009 by Barbara Kingsolver and currently on the reading list of many UK Book Clubs.

Chloë Sayer is a mind of information about Mexican traditions, textiles and popular art. Since her first visit to Mexico in 1973 she has become a recognised authority, as shown by her beautiful books and the exhibitions she has curated. To top it all, the Mexican government recognised her long-standing commitment to Mexican culture by awarding her the prestigious Ohtli medal in 2016.

Chloë's books include *Crafts of Mexico* (1977), *Costumes of Mexico* (1985) and *Mexico: Clothing & Culture* (2016). She has also written books on popular Mexican architecture, dance-masks, the Day of the Dead and other festivals.

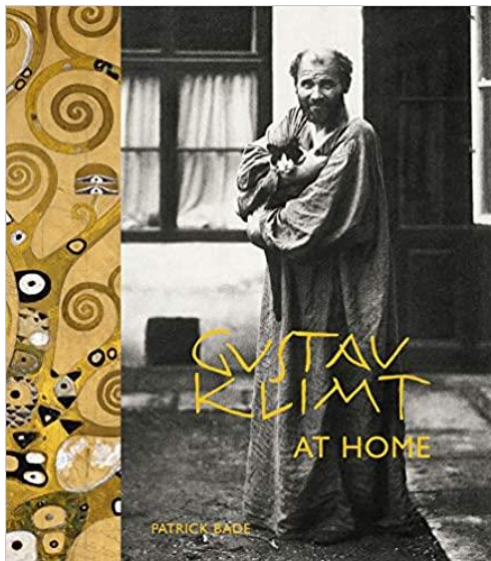
Future Lecture

Thursday April 15th 2021 – 7.45pm for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

GUSTAV KLIMT AT HOME – LECTURER - PATRICK BADE

The enduring and ever-increasing appeal of the art of Gustav Klimt stems not only from its seductive beauty but from its association with the Vienna of 1900. Klimt's Vienna was also the Vienna of Sigmund Freud, Gustav Mahler, Arthur Schnitzler, Karl Krauss, Arnold Schoenberg, Theodor Herzl and the young Adolf Hitler. Patrick Bade will attempt to interpret the art of Klimt within this context.

Patrick was a Senior lecturer on Art and Opera at Christies Education London. He has given talks at the National Gallery, The V&A and the Royal Academy of Arts. He leads cultural tours around European cities and has written several books on 19th & 20th century painting.



His lecture on Gustav Klimt from the 2018 publication *Gustav Klimt at Home* covers one of the most prominent members of the Secession Movement who was influenced and shaped by Vienna at the turn of the century.

Future Lecture

Thursday May 27th 2021 – 7.45pm for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

BELLINI – LECTURER – JO WALTON Details in our next newsletter.

Past Lectures

Thursday 14th January Zoom Lecture

Claire Ford-Willie lectured on

Victoria and Albert Exhibition of Renaissance Water Colours 1450-1640

Very sadly, this wonderful exhibition is closed because of lockdown and we can only hope it will become available to us in the spring. Claire showed us a huge series of slides, each one a highly coloured, jewel-like masterpiece.

As she explained, they have been preserved in good condition, because they have been in albums, or are illuminations or illustrations in books, or otherwise covered and rarely exposed to light. There were wonderful, intricate miniature portraits, virtuoso landscapes; amazing illustrations and illuminations for Books of Hours and other religious works; illustrations of contemporary building tools, village life; plants and animals; a hunting scene a sketch for a tapestry; designs for armour and scenes of imagined or actual travel and adventure. Claire, in her usual, enthusiastic way, explained all this variety in detail. Fortunately, the items in the exhibition are in the V&A's collections, so, even if we are unable to see the exhibition itself, we might have the chance to view some of them once life returns to "normal".

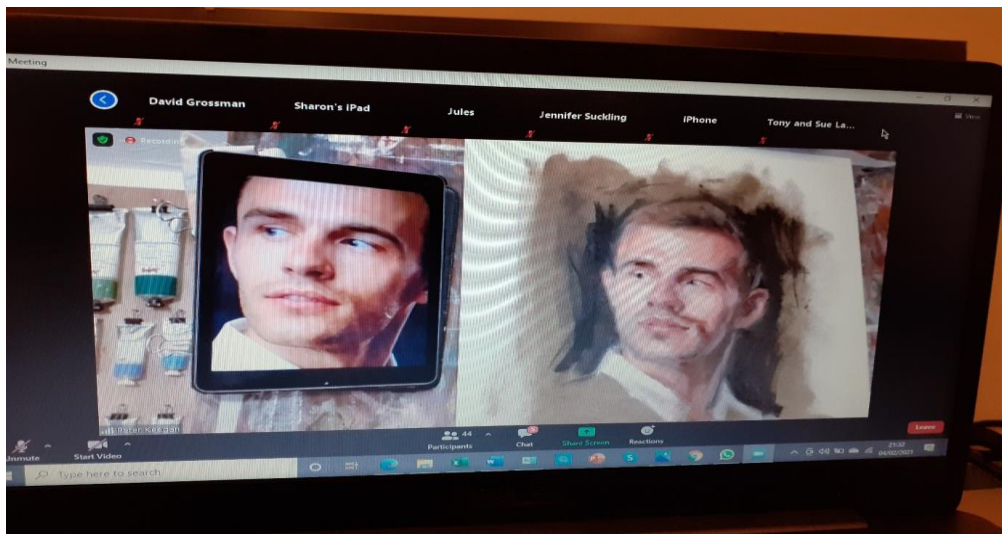
Muriel Beaver

Thursday 4th February Zoom Demonstration

By Peter Keegan *Portrait Painting*

This was another enjoyable and instructive evening, for painters (some of whom painted along) and non-painters. We watched a personality appear on a blank sheet of canvas paper, in a very short space of time. Having covered the technical detail of tools and technique involved, Peter brought up a photograph of a friend on his iPad, then proceeded to copy it, swiftly applying his limited palette of earthy oil colours, using flat, broad, (filbert) brushes. The whole operation could be managed so quickly, because Peter was painting *alla prima* or wet on wet. Having ensured a life-size image of the face, using his hand-

span, he sketched in the outline in wet paint, added lines for the eyes and mouth, then marked in the shadows.



Peter explained that he was following the techniques of old masters, such as Rembrandt, Hals, Velasquez and Singer-Sargent, after studying their unfinished works. As more colours, finer details and highlights were added, the image truly appeared to come to life. It was a delight to watch and listen! **Muriel Beaver**

Thursday 11th February Zoom Lecture

Ian Swankey lectured on *Underground Cathedrals*

Ian told me many things I knew, but only subconsciously. London Underground has been so much a part of my daily life, that I had failed to connect its many artistic attributes. Yet, as he demonstrated, there is a single design ethic running through every tile, poster, notice, colour scheme and, of course, map. He gave us the history from its beginning in 1863, through many technological changes to the latest lines and stations. London Transport has always been a patron of the arts – for instance, the murals by Epstein. Moore and Gill in St. James' Station; the Paolozzi mosaics in Tottenham Court Road Station and the Archer sculpture by Aumonier on top of East Finchley Station. Each line has its own design idiom and, within that, each station has individual sub-designs and accents. There are many "iconic" station buildings, yet the general design of the architecture is recognizable to each line and the decade in which it was

built. I hope I will be allowed to venture out again to appreciate a tube journey as an aesthetic experience!

Muriel Beaver

ARTISTS CHALLENGE

We suggest a title and a submission date, you submit your interpretation to us and we shall upload a selection onto the website each month.

This initiative has proved popular with members, while others have 'not quite got round to it yet'. Please, don't be shy.

October 2020 - Changing Times (Now on website)
November 2020 - Alive and Kicking (Now on website)
December 2020 - Surprise! (Now on website)
January 2021 - Just a Moment (Now on website)
February 2021 - Over the Rainbow (Now on website)

Submit by 5.00pm March 15th - A Piece of Cake?
Submit by 5.00pm April 12th - Spring into action.
Submit by 5.00pm May 10th - I dreamed a dream.
Submit by 5.00pm June 14th - Here comes the sun
Submit by 5.00pm July 12th - Luck of the draw

The committee invites submissions by email of Painting in any medium or combination of media. Drawing, iPad art and Artistic photography. They would need to be artistically manipulated either in real life, or in Photoshop etc. Also other artistic media, such as photographs of your own sculpture.

One entry per person per month please. Complete with a title. Please send your submission to anna.cross@me.com Anna Cross (on behalf of RAS Committee)

VISITS

Until we know what the Covid and lockdown situation is later in the Spring, I still can't currently plan any day trips. I hope that we will be able to start some trips in the early summer, so please look out for announcements in the next newsletter, on our website and from Myrna.

I mentioned a while ago that I might try and organise some virtual visits but someone has beaten me to it and in a much better way! You can get them from <https://www.virtualtrips.io/> - they have visits to more than 100 locations all over the world from Agra to Zadar, Amsterdam to Venice and even Bray to Warwick! These are live visits by real local guides walking around with a

camera and microphone. You can type questions for the guide to answer while they are walking and even take your own photos! Here is one I did on my recent “virtual visit” to Florence.

Statue of Michelangelo outside Palazzo Vecchio in Florence



The trips are free, though they do say you can give the guide a tip by credit card or PayPal. So far I have only done a few but they have all been interesting and enjoyable. Do give it a try!

We are still planning to have our postponed trip to Shropshire from the 19th to 22nd September 2021. Details will be available on our website and circulated once we can confirm the arrangements.

Gary Harding

Lionel Cooper FCA

It is with sadness we report the recent death of Lionel Cooper, a long standing member and supporter of the Society. He was our much respected Auditor for almost twenty years and invaluable with his professional skills and time when the Society became a registered charity. He will be missed and we offer our sympathy to his widow, Gill Cooper.