



Radlett Art Society

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

Dear Member

At long last Spring has arrived and with it our hopes for a resumption of the Society's activities begin to look achievable.

At their meeting last week, your Committee considered what might be possible over the summer and up to the end of the year. There is still considerable uncertainty as to which COVID-19 restrictions will remain after June, particularly with respect to social distancing and how they might affect the capacity of coaches and indoor public spaces.

It is therefore planned to continue online lectures for the time being but your Committee hopes to have at least one lecture this year where we can meet socially again. The September visit to Shropshire is going ahead and the possibility of an additional visit is being explored.

We have been invited to contribute a small exhibition of members' works to the commemoration of the Phillimore Bequest in September but have decided to postpone our major exhibition to June next year. Our workshop will start again in the autumn but it is hoped that the outdoor sketching group can meet in July and August as usual. The "Artist's Challenge" which has proved very popular, will also be continued over the summer. More details are available below and on the website.



Adam Lewis
Chairman

ARTIST'S CHALLENGE

Here are the challenges for the next two months. We are taking a break in August but there will be more challenges from September to the end of the year.

So KEEP painting.

Submit by 5.00 pm June 14th HERE COMES THE SUN

Submit by 5.00 pm July 12th LUCK OF THE DRAW

Please send your submissions to me as usual at anna.cross@me.com

Members without email – ring Anna on 075385 18704 for more details

Dear Artists & Painters,

New, as well as long standing exhibitors are extremely welcome to join the challenge. We have been going for 8 months now and it has been so exciting to see the great variety of paintings and artwork that about 20 of our members have exhibited. Thank you to all who have embraced the Challenge - not least of attempting to adapt their paintings to my vague titles. As I type this, the latest challenge will be added to the challenge page on the website - this month entitled **I Dreamed a Dream**

In other news, I am going to organise some al fresco summer painting groups in some of our members' gardens and some local public spaces. This year I am hoping to arrange a few more than in previous years as we have been so starved of the opportunity to paint together. This may include 2 or 3 morning sessions (10.30-12.30) and approximately 5 afternoon sessions (1.30-3.30). If you are interested please contact me at anna.cross@me.com or tel: **075385 18704** More information will be available when I have made the necessary arrangements.

Anna Cross

FUTURE LECTURES

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

VENICE IN THE AGE OF GIOVANNI BELLINI

Lecturer: JO WALTON – LECTURER AND ART HISTORIAN

In the second half of the 1400s, **Venice** was a city at the height of her powers. Trading links with the East filled the city with merchants, travellers, opulent luxury goods and money to lavish on buildings and artworks.

The **Bellini** family were an important part of the city's artistic fabric. Father **Jacopo** has left us exquisite volumes of drawings; a truly rare survival from the mid-fifteenth century. His elder son, **Gentile**, created panoramas of the city of Venice, alive with incident and colour and masquerading as religious paintings. His younger son, **Giovanni**, is famed for luminous images of the **Madonna and Child**, set against light-filled Veneto landscapes.

This talk explores the city and the family, through their work and that of their contemporaries, and shows how the richness and delicacy of his paintings influenced the artists of the **Venetian Golden Age**.



Thursday 24 June - 7.45pm for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

RED IN RUSSIAN ART: FROM ICONS TO THE AVANT-GARDE

Lecturer: DR NATALIA MURRAY Associate Lecturer and Senior Curator

Published books on Russian art and curator RA exhibition Revolution: Russian Art 1917-1932

Since the **Bolshevik** revolution 'red' was associated with **Soviet Russia** and communism but the Russian romance with 'red' long pre-dates the October Revolution. The

word 'red' in Russian, **krasnyj**, is also related to the word **krasivyj**,

beautiful. The Bolsheviks borrowed the significance and multi-layered symbolism of red and used it like the French revolutionaries, as a symbol of sacrifice - blood shed for revolutionary causes. However, in Russian Orthodox icons red was a symbol of resurrection and salvation while in traditional culture it was associated with joy - a festival or a special occasion. The multi-layered symbolism of red was further explored by avant-garde artists, taking the central place for Malevich and Kandinsky, who described red as giving the impression of pure youthful joy.



Thursday 15th July - 7.45pm for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

DRAPERY IN DRESS AND ART

Lecturer: Frances Ross, MA. London College of Fashion Lecturer, curator and published articles on art, fashion and culture.

Drapery and dress in art and sculpture embodies a coded narrative on the artists, period, status and icons represented. Whether the dress clings and reveals the body-shape or formulates other narrative on wealth, status, power or religiosity, the meaning can be revealed. This presentation will journey through art and sculptural history to illuminate and decode the key components and importance of understanding the symbolism of dress and drapery from the BC Greek era to contemporary art. Michelangelo, Henry Moore, Caravaggio, Van Dyck, Goya, Gainsborough and Elisabeth Frink are amongst the artists' work explored.



Portrait of a Young Woman 1935 Meredith Frampton

Past Lectures

Thursday 4th March Zoom Lecture

Chloe Sayer lectured on

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

This lecture contained everything, two self-made personalities, passion, adultery, divorce, remarriage, tragic health problems, assassination. But all this was subordinate to the amazing art produced simultaneously with the tumult.

Rivera (1886-1957) was the product of a middle-class family, who went to art school and then spent 14 years in Europe, where he was influenced by works by El Greco, Cubism. Byzantine art in Ravenna & frescos of Giotto and Michelangelo. The Mexican Revolution was the greatest influence. He became a Communist and, back in Mexico, was commissioned to paint monumental political frescoes, thus establishing a contemporary Mexican form of art, combining Mayan, other tribal and European styles. His subject was Mexico.

Frida Kahlo (1907-54), twenty year's Rivero's junior, married him in in 1927. He had commissions in the United States and they travelled there for his work. She developed her idiosyncratic style of painting, with influences from Mexican folk culture, emphasised by her love of dressing in her own version of indigenous, Mexican peasant dress. These costumes can be seen in her many self-portraits.

Kahlo suffered horrific health problems, beginning with childhood polio, which meant she had a withered leg. Then, in 1925, she was in a terrible bus accident. This led to 2 years in bed, many operations and lifelong pain. Nevertheless, she managed to rival her husband's many affairs. In 1937, the couple managed to aid the exiled Trotsky and his wife, by offering them a home with them in Mexico City. Frieda and Trotsky had a brief affair. Trotsky was assassinated, shortly after that, in August 1940. Rivera had an affair with Frida's younger sister, which led to the couple's divorce in 1939, but they remarried in 1940. Meanwhile, Frida had changed from painting very small works, to much larger canvasses and began to be offered exhibitions in Mexico, North America and Paris. Throughout the 1940s, Frida's health deteriorated and she had many operations and wore the series of tortuous corsets, which were part of the recent V & A exhibition. She died in 1954, aged 47 and he died in 1957, aged 70. A riveting, roller-coaster of a lecture about the couple who gave Mexico a modern, post-colonial, culture!

Muriel Beaver

Thursday 15th April Zoom Lecture

Patrick Bade lectured on

Gustav Klimt at Home

In a very entertaining lecture, Patrick covered Klimt's career, the many influences on his varied artistic output, plus his energetic sex life.

Klimt (1862-1918) was originally trained in applied arts and became a decorative artist, working with his brother and a friend on the walls and ceilings of grand buildings. Much of this work was in the classical tradition.

Influenced by contemporary artists. Klimt's work became more adventurous, until a ceiling painting at the University of Vienna was denounced as pornographic and he ceased working on official commissions.

Patrick stressed Klimt's eclecticism. His works were influenced by a wide variety of artists and movements, including Gauguin, van Gogh, the Pre-Raphaelites, Rodin, Monet, Japanese art, Byzantine golden mosaics in Ravenna and the ideas of Freud. In 1897, he became a founder and president of the Vienna Secession and an established member of Viennese society. This led to many commissions for portraits, most of which were of the wives of rich industrialists. He is reputed to have had affairs with many of them. These portraits included those of his Golden Period, such as *The Kiss* and *Adele Bloch-Bauer*.

Klimt was very avant-garde in staid Vienna and completely changed ideas of what art might include. Patrick brought him to life.

Muriel Beaver

VISITS - Day trip to Burghley House – Sunday 22nd August



The Third George Room



Still Life by Giuseppe Recco



The Hell Staircase



Burghley House – Sunday 22nd August

I hope to be able to organise a day trip to Burghley House on Sunday 22nd August. Burghley is one of the largest and grandest surviving houses of the sixteenth century and a magnificent example of the great Elizabethan ‘prodigy’ houses. Conceived by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, between 1555 and 1587, Burghley is a testament to the ambition and vision of the most powerful courtier of the first Elizabethan age.

The house has a large number of Old Master paintings and tapestries and well as excellent furniture and curios. There is also a special exhibition to mark the 500th year since Cecil’s birth (which should have been held last year but was delayed due to the Pandemic).

Further details about the house and its contents are available on their website - <https://www.burghley.co.uk/>

I don’t know the exact cost yet but it will probably be about £40 p.p. and the journey time by coach is about 1hr 45 min. The feasibility of this trip and its price depends on the number of people that would go on it so please can you let me know if you would be interested, preferably by email to radlett.art.society@gmail.com or me gary.harding@gmail.com. For members not on email my tel: **07949 141214** and no later than the 1st July.

I will then confirm if the trip is going ahead and its price. The payment will be needed by 1st August.

In addition to the attractions of this historic house the parkland that we will see, was largely designed by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown and is open daily throughout the year free of charge and the Garden Shop is also open available free of charge.

The Garden Café offers a takeaway service including a range of sandwiches, salads and cakes with a glorious outdoor seating area.

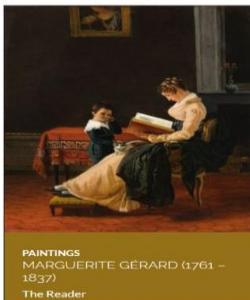
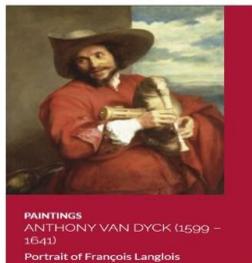
The Orangery Restaurant will offer a full range of menu options when reopening. More details will be available later in the Spring.

Gary Harding

Holiday in Shropshire – 19th to 22nd September

We hope to be able to go ahead with our holiday, based in Shropshire, in September. The outline itinerary is:

Sunday 19th – After departing Radlett stop at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham which features key pieces by many great artists including Monet, Botticelli, Renoir, Van Dyck, and Rossetti to name but a few. Continue to our hotel, the 4-star Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel, in Shrewsbury.



Monday 20th – Walking tour of the town and visit the Abbey with its significant art and architecture. Some time at leisure in the town or at the hotel

Tuesday 21st – Morning visit Powis Castle (NT) which has a magnificent collection of artwork, tapestries and furniture. Afternoon visit Attingham Park (NT) and its striking 18th century mansion. Rich in Regency splendour and its collections of Italian treasures.

Wednesday 22nd – En route to Radlett stop at Wightwick Manor (NT). A family home and a beautiful art gallery, with an impressive collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings (including works by Rossetti, Burne-Jones and their followers).



The cost for the trip will be £389 per person (subject to sufficient numbers travelling) for a double room, including breakfast and dinner. Bookings and payments need to be made by 19th July – earlier confirmation that you will be travelling greatly appreciated. Further details, a flyer and a booking form are available on our Website or by request from me. gary.harding@gmail.com tel: 07949 141214 Gary Harding