

THE ARTS SOCIETY BORDERS

LECTURE NOTES 2023 - 2024



Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 11am

Helen McIldowie Jenkins

‘Finding Francis: A Visual Pilgrimage through the Art of Assisi’

This lecture is a quest to find the art that best serves this most loved of all the western saints in the extraordinary Basilica di San Francesco. From Cimabue to Giotto, Pietro Lorenzetti and Simone Martini, all the big guns of duecento and trecento art are here - but who is this Francis they depict?



Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 11am

Brian Healey

‘Pioneers of the New America: Artists of the Hudson River School’

Originating in the dramatic Adirondack mountains of Upstate New York, the Hudson winds its way south to end alongside the skyscrapers of Manhattan - a prime source of inspiration for many C19th artists who sought to associate the unspoilt grandeur and vast potential of these recently claimed lands with the hopes and aspirations of a new nation.



Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 11am

Christopher Bradley

‘Arabia Felix: Secret treasure chest of Yemen and Oman’

South Arabia is one of the world’s oldest inhabited regions, the Romans calling it ‘Arabia Felix’ meaning ‘prosperous Arabia’ because of the great wealth traded along the Gold and Incense Road originating in Dhofar. Families, tribes and villages can trace their roots back 3,000 years in stories illustrated by the drawings of Fuad al Futaih. Fine workmanship can be seen today in women’s jewellery and the traditional Yemeni ‘djambia’ and Omani ‘khanjar’ daggers with needlework belts still worn by the men.



Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 11am

Tony Rawlins

‘The Three Kings; the Real Story’

A light-hearted Christmas lecture describing what we think we know about the three kings and what we don’t know! Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Were they actually kings? If they were wise men why did they give away the location of the baby Jesus to Herod, the alleged baby slayer?



Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 11am

Jacqueline Hyman

‘The Quest for the Holy Grail Tapestries’

The comradeship of the knights and their heroic quests as described in Thomas Malory’s ‘Le Morte d’Arthur’ were a lifelong inspiration for William Morris and his dear friend Edward Burne-Jones which resulted in their finest artistic achievement - a narrative series of tapestries called ‘The Quest for the Holy Grail’, commissioned in 1888 by the Australian millionaire William Knox D’Arcy for Stanmore Hall in Middlesex.



Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 11am

Alan Read

‘Godfrey Kneller: Court Painter or Hasty Slobberer’

Marking his tercentenary this talk looks at the life and work of Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) the leading portraitist of Stuart and early Georgian England. Due to his huge productivity and reliance on assistants, with stories of as many as fourteen sitters in one day, the painter James Northcote in 1815 dismissed many of Kneller’s portraits as ‘hasty slobberers...scarcely fit to be seen’. But the sheer volume of work should not taint our opinion of a painter who produced portraits of seven successive British monarchs as well as the definitive portraits of Isaac Newton and Christopher Wren.

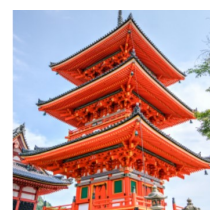


Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 11am

Meri Arichi

‘Sacred Places - Shinto Shrines of Japan’

Shinto, literally ‘The Way of the Gods’ is the ancient animistic tradition of Japan. Prior to the adoption of Buddhism in the 6th century by the ruling class, Japanese religiosity was centred around the worship of indigenous gods ‘kami’, deities primarily associated with nature and the spirits of ancestors. The lecture will consider the concept of Shinto and introduce some of the most famous shrines in Japan.



Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 11am

Toby Capwell

‘The Scoliotic Knight: Reconstructing the Real Richard III’

The discovery of the grave of Richard III in Leicester raised an army of fascinating questions. The scoliosis exhibited by the skeleton revealed the twisted physique of Shakespeare’s ‘Black Legend’ was based in fact. The lecture deals with Richard’s armour - what did it look like and did it disguise his condition? It discusses armour as an expressive art form, designed to radiate messages, justification and proof of the wearer’s right to rule as a king and wielder of divine power on Earth.



Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 11am

Timothy Schroder

‘The Schroder Collection of Renaissance Silver’

Timothy Schroder’s family were bankers and passionate collectors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The collection remains together and is exceptionally important. The lecture came about through an exhibition at the Wallace Collection in 2007 and talks about the two generations of collectors as well as the silver.



Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 11am

Sam Moorhead

‘Wonders of the Roman Empire: Off Limits’

Recent turmoil in much of the Near East and North Africa means that many of the most impressive sites of the Roman Empire can no longer be visited. This talk provides an outline of Roman activity in the region, focussing on cities which have largely been destroyed such as Hatra in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. Some of the finest architecture, sculpture and mosaics from the Roman world will be presented, highlighting both the richness of eastern Roman culture and the lives of those who lived in these exotic places.

