



Abingdon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Member Society of NADFAS

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Lecture Programme 2017-2018



EDUCATION AND
CONSERVATION

2017

Wednesday 19 April 2017

The Surreal World of René Magritte

Sarah Kelly

Stairs leading nowhere, houses inside trees, bowler-hatted men undergoing unexpected transformations: these are just some of the strange, unsettling images created by the Belgian surrealist. This lecture surveys Magritte's career, his creative but turbulent years in Paris with the French surrealists, fascination with the connections between words and images and his problem-solving paintings are all addressed.

Wednesday 17 May 2017

The Art and Science of the Lunar Society

Sally Hoban

The Lunar Society of Birmingham were artists and scientists, and their legacy of experimentation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries helped give us the modern industrial world we know today. This lecture discusses the relationship between art and science in the Lunar Circle. Also discussed are the virtually unknown women connected with the Lunar Circle, including Elizabeth Stockdale Wilkinson (1799 – 1871), who was involved in early photography, and the poet Anna Seward (1747 – 1809).

Wednesday 21 June 2017

The Tiger in Asian Art

Zara Fleming

Intriguing and beautiful, tigers are some of the most awe-inspiring and mysterious creatures on earth. Feared and revered in equal measures, they have inspired countless legends, beliefs and works of art. This lecture explores the significance of the tiger as a symbol of power and protection in its Asian homeland, illustrated by a diverse range of art and artefacts. The tiger is seen in early Chinese bronzes, Japanese netsukes, Indian paintings, Tibetan rugs. The lecture will look at how this magnificent animal faces the threat of extinction.

Wednesday 19 July 2017

The Honourable East India Company:

East-West trade 1600-1800, Chinese Export and Chinoiserie

Vivienne Lawes

This lecture explores the way in which the East India Company developed its methods of trade. It shows how the 17th century textile trade with India established a methodology for sending out patterns to be copied by artisans, replacing the original system of importing textiles native in design. This became the norm by the 18th century when the East India Company first made inroads into China. The currency and balance of trade is explained, and methods of production are illustrated including Chinese export pieces - painted silks, furniture and porcelain.

No lecture in August

Wednesday 20 September 2017

Undressing Antiques

Mark Hill

"Antiques. I don't understand them and they're beyond my budget. They're not for me." A persuasive introduction to buying antiques and integrating and using them in today's homes. The state of the antiques market and the different meanings of the word value are considered, and we also look at what current and future generations of collectors are buying.

Wednesday 18 October 2017

Let there be Light: the art and science of light in painting

Alexandra Drysdale

Over 4.6bn years ago, our sun started to shine, and light began its eight-minute flight to Earth. Science and Art have worked together in the quest to understand light. For artists, light can express emotions, from El Greco's light of spiritual ecstasy to the dangerous darkness of Caravaggio. Stonehenge was built to worship the sun, and today James Turrell makes light temples in art galleries.

Wednesday 15 November 2017

Auguste Rodin - the First Modern Sculptor?

Eveline Eaton

This lecture will investigate the important role played by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917). In the evolution from traditional to modern sculpture he said: "I am the link, the bridge between the past and the future, between yesterday and tomorrow." The talk will focus on Rodin's famous masterpieces such as The Burghers of Calais and Balzac – looking at the ideas behind these works as well as the new techniques employed by the sculptor.

December 2017

Christmas Lunch and Talk – date to be announced

2018

Wednesday 17 January 2018

Empowering People: The Real Voice of Street Art

Doug Gillen

"The people want to topple the regime" - the words that lay at the heart of the Syrian uprising in 2011. Across Egypt today anti-government murals and tags flood the public wall space of the city, the voice of the silenced. A little girl holds a balloon as she floats towards the sky, a simple stencil sprayed on the separation wall that divides Israel and Palestine was viewed from every corner of the world. Art lies at the heart of social unrest, a voice for those who cannot be heard. Graffiti is more than mindless vandalism, it's the early stages of revolution.

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Thomas Heatherwick: The Leonardo da Vinci of our times

Anthea Streeter

In 2004 Thomas Heatherwick was the youngest practitioner to be appointed a Royal Designer for Industry; in 2010 he won a Gold Medal for his British Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo, and in the same year he was designer of the year in Japan. Sir Terence Conran spotted his talent early on describing him as "the Leonardo da Vinci of our times". Heatherwick's studio team designed the Olympic Cauldron for the 2012 London Olympics together with the new London bus.

Wednesday 21 March 2018

The Two Gustavs: Mahler and Klimt

Gavin Plumley

Gustav Klimt and his colleagues broke away from the imperially endorsed art institutions in Vienna in 1897 and founded the Secession. That was the same year that Gustav Mahler arrived to take charge of the Opera House in the city. Comparing these two totemic *fin de siècle* talents, this lecture places Klimt and Mahler in context, asking what fundamentally links and, indeed, divides them