

## **EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME October 2019 - July 2020**



18th Century Gardens



GPO Film Unit



Bach Christmas Oratorio



Van Gogh at the Asylum



Food as Art



Ancient Olympics



Australian Art



Ancient Egyptian Art



Irish Gothic Art



Isfahan & Persian Tiles

## **MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL GUESTS WELCOME**

Lectures at 8pm second Thursday of the month  
(except April 2020) from October to July at  
James Allen's Girls' School Sixth Form Centre  
East Dulwich Grove, SE22 8TE  
Parking via Green Dale

**Annual membership: £49 single, £95 joint  
Guests £9 per lecture at the door**

email: [info@theartssocietydulwich.org.uk](mailto:info@theartssocietydulwich.org.uk)  
web: [www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk)

# LECTURE PROGRAMME

## October 2019 - July 2020

**10 October 2019: GREAT GARDENS OF THE 18th CENTURY: LANDSCAPE GARDENING FROM HA-HAS TO HERMITS (Patrick Conner)** The landscape garden was a great English innovation. In place of the formal patterns, clipped hedges and straight lines that were in vogue throughout Europe, William Kent introduced a new concept in the 1730s: a 'natural' garden full of variety, drama and surprise. Examples will be drawn in the lecture from gardens at Rousham, Claremont, Painshill and Stowe, and from the ever-ingenious designs of Humphry Repton. However, did the origins of the landscape garden lie elsewhere? Two imperial gardens of 18th century China may have helped to shape the great gardens of Georgian England.

**14 November 2019: THE GPO FILM UNIT - THE BIRTH OF DOCUMENTARIES (Howard Smith)** This is the entertaining story of how documentary films started from the early French and Edwardian days of silent movies. Film was still at a very experimental stage and this lecture looks at the Soviet influence of avant-garde films like *Battleship Potemkin* and *Man with a Movie Camera* to the formation of the GPO Film Unit by the legendary John Grierson with Alberto Cavalcanti in the 1930s. The lecture will include clips from films like *Coalface*, *The Granton Trawler*, *Love on the Wing*, *Spare Time* and of course *Night Mail*, the classic film featuring the poetry of W H Auden and music by Benjamin Britten, which is a cinematic icon.

**12 December 2019: CELEBRATE, REJOICE, RISE UP: BACH'S GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS ORATORIO (Sandy Burnett)** In this illustrated talk, Sandy explores how Bach brings the Christmas story alive in his *Weihnachtsoratorium* or Christmas Oratorio, written for Lutheran congregations in 1730s Leipzig. An overview of Bach's life and achievement precedes an examination of this magnificent work, which draws on various forms ranging from recitative, arioso, aria, chorale and instrumental sinfonia through to full-blown choruses infused with the joyous spirit of dance.

**9 January 2020: STARRY NIGHT - VAN GOGH AT THE ASYLUM (Martin Bailey)** In May 1889, during the most harrowing period of his life, Van Gogh entered the asylum of Saint-Paul de Mausole at St Rémy as a voluntary patient. Despite the challenges of ill health and asylum life, he continued to produce a series of masterpieces which included cypress trees, wheat-fields, olive groves and sunsets. The lecture will describe daily life behind the walls of the asylum and look at Van Gogh through fresh eyes, with newly discovered material.

**13 February 2020: TO PLEASE THE PALATE AND CHARM THE EYE (Annie Gray)** This lecture looks at food presentation and design over the last 400 years, from towering Tudor pies to unbelievably silly late-Victorian kitsch. It explores our changing notions of edibility and attractiveness and shines a light on the interaction between food and fashion. Its scope includes the 1950s and 60s, so Fanny Cradock will be there in all her glory. Food is the ultimate artistic medium and has the potential to reflect fast-changing fashion in a unique way.

**12 March 2020: THE ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPICS: A VISITOR'S GUIDE (Neil Faulkner)** In the Olympic Stadium, there were neither stands nor shade; you sat on a grassy bank in the searing heat. Naked athletes participated in foot-races, the pentathlon, horse and chariot races and three combat sports – boxing, wrestling and the no-holds-barred pankration. The Olympic Village was a vast tented encampment with inadequate water supplies, heaps of stinking refuse and huge open latrines. The air was buzzing with mosquitoes, flies and wasps. By the end, no-one had washed for a week and you could smell the Games a mile away. This lecture will transport you to the Ancient Greek Olympics 2,400 years ago.

**2 April 2020\*\*\*: ART DOWN UNDER FROM THE CONVICT YEARS TO THE MODERN ERA (Val Woodgate)** Responses to life in the strange new continent were initially seen through European, and especially British, artistic traditions. 19th century Australian Impressionism and the Heidelberg School challenged the dominance of the Victorian style, with Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton and others producing works which became Australian icons. The First World War was a watershed in Australian and New Zealand history; no longer subservient to Europe, artists now found their own language to depict their unique landscape and culture. At the same time indigenous artists began to respond to contemporary life, while retaining the traditions of their ancestors.

**14 May 2020: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ART – 3,000 YEARS OF TREASURES (Eileen Goulding)** The Narma Palette and Meidum Geese from the Old Kingdom, the Senoswret III from the Middle Kingdom and the bust of Nefertiti and Nebamun paintings from the New Kingdom all indicate the wealth of Ancient Egyptian riches. They are a sample of the many discoveries that have been displayed and admired by millions of museum visitors around the world. This lecture will look in depth at these treasures, examining the techniques and materials used, who commissioned and owned them, their purpose and hidden meanings.

**11 June 2020: THE UNKNOWN ART OF GOTHIC IRELAND (Colum Hourihane)** The term Gothic does not sit easily with the art that was made in late medieval Ireland. Representing a fusion of the native and the international styles, a wealth of art from metalwork to manuscript still survives. Extending from the thirteenth to the end of the fifteenth century, this art is virtually unknown in the outside world. This lecture will introduce those works and look at the broader world in which they were created.

**9 July 2020: ISFAHAN AND THE HISTORY OF PERSIAN TILEWORK (James Allan)** The lecture explores the history of Persian tilework primarily through the monuments of the most beautiful of all Persian cities, Isfahan, though it will refer to buildings elsewhere in Iran. From simple monochrome and turquoise inlays in the 12th century, tilework in Iran developed in both decorative complexity and variety of colours, until, by the 17th century, enormous architectural surfaces were covered with brilliant ornament. But then comes the surprise, for in the 19th century, tiles are used for the first time to tell a story...

\*\*\* NB: the April lecture takes place on the FIRST Thursday of April in 2020

## STUDY DAYS

### THE ARTS SOCIETY GREATER LONDON AREA (GLA) STUDY DAYS

Members and non-members are welcome at the extensive programme of study days organised by The Arts Society GLA in central London – see [gla.nadfas.net/news/new-study-days](http://gla.nadfas.net/news/new-study-days). They sell out quickly, so sign up for advance notice at [studycourses.gla@gmail.com](mailto:studycourses.gla@gmail.com).

## VISITS

Full details and booking forms on [www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/programme/visits](http://www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/programme/visits). Guests welcome.

**Friday 4 October 2019** (*book by 30 August 2019*)

**GUIDED WALK AROUND THE STREET ART OF SHOREDITCH**

**Monday 17 February 2020**

**THE OPTICAL MUSEUM & BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE, CENTRAL LONDON**

**Tuesday 21 April 2020**

**PICCOTTS END 16th CENTURY WALL PAINTINGS & ST ALBAN'S MUSEUM**

**Friday 1 May 2020**

**PITZHANGER MANOR, WALPOLE PARK, EALING**

## EVENTS

**Friday 13 December 2019**

**MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER** – 7.30 for 8pm, Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club, Grange Lane, SE21 7LH. Guests welcome.

**Thursday 12 March 2020**

**AGM** – 7.15 pm, followed by refreshments and the lecture.

## WHERE WE MEET AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

**LECTURES** are held at James Allen's Girls' School Sixth Form Lecture Theatre at 8pm (refreshments from 7.30pm). **Parking is available adjacent to the Sixth Form Centre via the entrance in Green Dale, SE22** or use local streets. See [www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/where-we-meet](http://www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/where-we-meet). Nearest rail is North Dulwich. Bus 37 or 42, Townley Road stop.

**ANNUAL FEES** (10 lectures): single £49, joint (x2 at the same address) £95, or £9/students £2 per lecture at the door – no booking required.

**TO JOIN** Download the membership form from our website

[www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/join-us](http://www.theartssocietydulwich.org.uk/join-us), email [membership@theartssocietydulwich.org.uk](mailto:membership@theartssocietydulwich.org.uk) or call Desrae Trace on 020 7274 6106.