



LECTURES AND VISITS SEPTEMBER 2016 TO JANUARY 2017

All lectures begin at 11.00 am in the Lecture Room

Seating is limited in the Lecture Room due to fire regulations. Once the Lecture Room is full, we have to refuse admittance and apologise for any disappointment this may cause. The Lecture Room is open from 10.30 am.

LECTURES

Sunday 18 September, **Murder and Modernism: Walter Sickert and the Camden Town Group**

Nicola Moorby

The Camden Town Group was an early twentieth century innovative circle of painters united by the desire to paint works depicting modern life. The lecture introduces the core members of the group, led by Walter Sickert, and tells the story of their brief but significant association. It examines the key themes addressed in their work: urban life, popular entertainment and the lower classes, as well as Sickert's infamous series of paintings inspired by the notorious Camden Town murder. Nicola Moorby is an independent art historian specialising in British art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She has researched and written extensively on Sickert and the Camden Town Group.

Sunday 16 October, **Sir Joshua Reynolds and *The Fortune Teller***

Alexandra Gent

Joshua Reynolds was the first president of the *Royal Academy* and the most successful British portrait painter of the eighteenth century. However, he also experimented with his materials and technique, often to the detriment of his paintings' stability. Alexandra Gent is a conservator who has worked for the Wallace Collection, Tate, the National Galleries of Scotland and English Heritage and co-curated the recent exhibition *Joshua Reynolds: Experiments in Paint* at the Wallace Collection. She will talk about Reynolds's painting technique, drawing on the results of technical examination of his paintings, which include *The Fortune Teller* at Kenwood.

Sunday 13 November, **Creating Europe 1600-1815 at the V&A**

Joanna Norman

Recently the V&A opened *Europe 1600-1815*, seven galleries devoted to the art and design of seventeenth and eighteenth century continental Europe. These galleries showcase nearly 1,100 objects from the Museum's collection, representing a period that saw the emergence of global powers and markets, the establishment of modern notions of living and the rise of France as the undisputed leader of fashionable taste. This talk explores the process behind the refurbishment and redisplay of the galleries as well as the themes represented within them. Joanna Norman is a Senior Curator at the V&A and Lead Curator for the forthcoming V&A Museum of Design Dundee, and was project curator for the Europe galleries.

Sunday 11 December, **The Emperor and the Architect: Self-made Men, Sir John Soane and Napoleon**

Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski

Sir John Soane (1753-1837), was one of the most significant architects in British history. He made his name as the architect of the Bank of England and then became an official architect to the British Government, a role he held throughout the turbulent period of the Napoleonic Wars. Surprisingly, despite his official status, Soane was also a great admirer of the Emperor Napoleon, even including a 'shrine' to the Emperor's career in his superlative house-museum at No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. This lecture will explore why a patriotic British architect would lionise the Emperor of the French through an examination of Soane's architecture and his extraordinary collections. Prior to his appointment as Kenwood Curator of Collections in 2015, Dr Kierkuc-Bielinski was Exhibitions Curator at the Sir John Soane Museum.

This lecture is followed by the Christmas Drinks Party.

2017

Sunday 15 January 2017, **Canaletto and his London Legacy**

Dr Pat Hardy

Canaletto's stay in London (1746-55) resulted in strikingly beautiful views of the city and influenced the future direction of London landscape art. The city through Canaletto's eyes looked tidied up, clean and neat. But the presence of a significant number of artists working in London prior to his visit suggests that his impact is more complicated than has originally appeared. By looking at Canaletto's views of London and his influence, a rich visual account of this massively expanding city emerges, one in which Canaletto plays an important, though not a solitary role, in formulating. Dr Hardy is Curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings at the Museum of London and contributed to the *Celebrating Canaletto* exhibition catalogue at Compton Verney in 2015.

VISITS

Wednesday 5 October, Watts Gallery Artists' Village, coach departs 8.45am to 6.00pm

George Frederic Watts (1817-1904) was a towering figure in Victorian art. A portraitist, sculptor, landscape painter and symbolist, Watts's work embodied the most pressing themes and ideas of the time, earning him the title "England's Michelangelo". As a young man a scholarship financed a visit to Italy and this period of travel and discovery was hugely influential on Watts. Steeped in antiquity and Italian art and culture, his high ideals consolidated as he began to see himself as part of the great traditions of old master painting.

As portraiture earned him a comfortable living, he could afford to explore grand themes in monumental allegorical paintings. His most memorable images, such as *Hope* and *Mammon*, inspired artists and thinkers internationally. Watts believed passionately that art should be accessible to all. He opened his own studio to the public and supported schemes that took art to poor areas of London.

At the age of 47 he married the actress Ellen Terry, thirty years his junior. The marriage lasted only a few months, but his second marriage in 1886 to Mary Seton Fraser-Tytler, a Scottish potter and designer, was a personal and creative success. They leased land at Compton, Surrey and commissioned Arts & Crafts architect Sir Ernest George to build their house and studios, Limmerlease, which proved to be a tranquil haven for them both in their last years. In 1903 Watts created a purpose-built gallery and moved all his paintings to the Compton Gallery (now known as Watts Gallery), which opened to the public in 1904.

The day trip includes highlights of the magnificent collection in the Watts Gallery, the Watts Chapel, an Arts and Crafts masterpiece designed by Mary Watts, and Limmerlease, the artists' home.

Cost is £44, including coach travel, guided tours, morning coffee and lunch. *N.B. You are advised to wear comfortable shoes as there is a 10 minute uphill walk to the artists' house and studios and a 10 minute walk to the Chapel.*

Thursday 8 December, Linley Sambourne House at 10.45am

Following our recent visit to Lord Leighton's magnificent studio-house, Linley Sambourne's house nearby is a total contrast, but in its way, equally fascinating. Stepping into the modest terrace house is to experience a home in which the family has just gone out, and the maid has let you in to see their home full to overflowing with furniture, pictures, photographs, objets d'art, letters and diaries. Edward Linley

Sambourne was an illustrator and satirical cartoonist, working for Punch magazine for over forty years. Not only has the house survived virtually intact, but so has the family archive of personal papers. This material allows the daily life of the family to be pieced together, as well as giving insights into Sambourne's professional life at Punch and providing an image of middle-class society in late Victorian and Edwardian London.

The cost is £12 for admission and guided tour. *N.B. The tour starting in the basement involves climbing stairs to see all three floors.*

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND BOOKING FORMS AND CHEQUES BEFORE
20 JUNE.**

MUSICAL EVENT

Thursday 13 October, **Parisian Magic at Kenwood**

An evening of music and song with a French flavour

Please make a note in your diary of this special event. Details will be sent out later.

GARDEN VISIT

Thursday 27 October, **Come strolling among the falling leaves of Kenwood with Paul Jackson, Head Gardener**

Meet under the north portico at 10.30 am. This walk is free for Friends of Kenwood, non-members £3. Please contact Elizabeth Inglis on **020 8450 8802** or via email [**efinglis@dsl.pipex.com**](mailto:efinglis@dsl.pipex.com)

COMING SOON

The Curator, the Iveagh Bequest, Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski has kindly offered to lead an exclusive tour of **Kenwood's Dairy** for the Friends of Kenwood this autumn.

Look out for details which will be circulated by email, on the website and announced at lectures.