



LECTURES AND VISITS DECEMBER 2015 TO JUNE 2016

Lectures begin at 11.00 am in the Kenwood 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.

Sunday 6 December, 2015 **'Dürers Walk'**

Dr Joachim Strupp

Followed by our **Christmas Drinks**

Albrecht Dürer was the most groundbreaking, inquisitive artist of the Northern Renaissance. His professional curiosity, spirit of exploration and entrepreneurial mind prompted him to embark on a journey from his home town Nürnberg across the Alps into artistically advanced Italy twice, an arduous and hazardous undertaking, which ultimately led him to Venice. Dürer recorded his impressions in letters and diaries, and in watercolours, prints and paintings, giving us a unique insight into his psyche. Also from Nürnberg, Dr Strupp followed in his compatriot's footsteps, and will present this extraordinary experience in his lecture. Dr Strupp specialises in Italian and German Renaissance and Baroque art. He has been a university lecturer in art history and now lectures independently.

Sunday 17 January, 2016 **Cornelius Johnson: Charles I's Forgotten Painter**

Karen Hearn

Cornelius Johnson had a successful career as a portraitist both in England and the Netherlands. His meticulous rendering of lace and other textiles and the gentle dignity with which he imbues his sitters are instantly recognisable. Johnson was appointed Charles I's 'Picture drawer' in 1632, although most royal commissions went to Anthony van Dyck. He left England for the Netherlands in 1643, adapting the style and tone of his portraits to suit his new patrons. Karen Hearn was Curator of 16th & 17th Century British Art at Tate Britain and is now an Honorary Professor at University College London. She has published widely on British art and most recently curated an exhibition on Cornelius Johnson at the National Portrait Gallery.

Sunday 14 February, **The Ionides Family: Greek Patrons of Avant-Garde Art and Design**

Barbara Bryant

The remarkable émigré Greek Ionides family - Alexander Constantine, his wife, children, their extended clan, friends and lovers - were at the heart of the London cultural scene from the 1840s. Their artist friends, G.F. Watts, D.G. Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Whistler painted their portraits and helped them to amass major art collections, much of which they bequeathed to the Victoria & Albert Museum. We will look at their colourful lifestyles, avant-garde taste in art and interior decoration, as well as at their public and private lives, and so find some romance in this

Valentine's Day lecture. Barbara Bryant is an art historian and consultant curator and she has published widely on nineteenth-century British art and architecture.

Sunday 20 March, **J M W Turner, RA: The Artist and his House in Twickenham**

Catherine Parry-Wingfield

Turner's fame as 'the man who painted England' is huge, but his talents as an architect are less well-known. Sandycombe Lodge (built around 1813) in Twickenham was designed by Turner. It was used as a home for his father and a retreat for the artist from London pressures. The lovely area of the Thames nearby inspired some of Turner's most beautiful and evocative paintings. Catherine Parry-Wingfield is an art historian and has lectured widely on 18th and early 19th century visual arts to NADFAS, the Victoria & Albert Museum courses, and other arts organisations. She is chairman of Turner's House Trust which is restoring Sandycombe Lodge, with plans to open it to the public in the near future.

Sunday 17 April, **Alma-Tadema: Houses of Life, Art, and the Imagination**

Dr Elizabeth Prettejohn

Lawrence Alma-Tadema is well-known as the Victorian painter of meticulously detailed reconstructions of everyday life in ancient Rome – 'the archaeologist of artists'. Less familiar is his work as designer, together with his artist-wife Laura, of innovative interiors for two sumptuous houses in Regent's Park and St John's Wood. Yet there is a close connection between the artist's interest in the ancient domestic interior and the creation of these modern studio houses. This lecture previews a new exhibition exploring the idea of the domestic interior in the art and life of Alma-Tadema and his family. Elizabeth Prettejohn is Professor of History of Art, at the University of York. She has published books on the Pre-Raphaelite and Aesthetic movements and is a co-curator of the exhibition.

This lecture starts at 11.30 am, following the AGM.

Sunday 22 May, **Ruskin's Venice: City of Hope and Despair**

Christopher Newall

John Ruskin's feelings about Venice were intense and passionate, but also strangely conflicted. He visited the city eleven times – on the first occasion in 1835 as the pampered and precocious only son of adoring parents, and on the last, in 1888, as a sad and abandoned old man about to sink into his final phase of mute isolation. In the course of two long stays there in 1849-50 and 1851-52, with his young wife Effie, he conducted the minute inspection of the city's fabric which led to *The Stones of Venice* (1851 and 1853). Seventeen years later, in 1869, the whole basis of his intellectual and spiritual life had changed. Ruskin made wonderful drawings of the buildings and architectural decoration of Venice. These serve as records of places and things that have since deteriorated. Christopher Newall is a freelance art historian, exhibition curator, lecturer, tour leader, and consultant on the acquisition of painting, drawings and works of art.

Sunday 19 June, **Goya: The Portraits**

Dr Xavier Bray

This lecture is given by the curator of the sensational exhibition of Goya's portraits at the National Gallery in autumn 2015, the first comprehensive exhibition devoted to this major part of his artistic output. It traces Goya's career from the court of Charles III in Madrid to his appointment as First Court Painter to Charles IV, the difficult period under Joseph Bonaparte and then Ferdinand VII, which nevertheless saw some of his finest work, ending with his final years in France. Goya's approach to painting a human likeness developed throughout his career, often breaking traditional boundaries. Xavier Bray has held curatorial posts at the National Gallery and at the Museum of Fine Arts in Bilbao. He is now Chief Curator at Dulwich Picture Gallery.

VISITS 2016

Thursday 14 January, **The Foundling Museum** at 11.15 am

In 1739 Captain Thomas Coram received the charter to establish the first institution to care for London's abandoned children. The Foundling Hospital relied entirely on charity, so the painter William Hogarth conceived the idea of having public spaces there to exhibit contemporary art in order to encourage donations. Apart from Hogarth, artists who donated work include Allan Ramsay, Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds and the sculptor John Michael Rysbrack. Paintings, sculpture, furniture and ceramics are displayed in beautiful eighteenth-century interiors that have been reconstructed from the original Hospital building. The Museum also houses the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, a major holding of memorabilia relating to Handel and his contemporaries, including Handel's Will and the conducting score of Messiah performed in aid of the Foundling Hospital. Our tour will give us the history of the Foundling Museum, and guide us through the art work and the Handel Collection. Afterwards, you can visit the special museum displays (not guided) which tell the moving story of the Hospital as revealed by the poignant artefacts and archival documents of the children deposited there and the mothers who had to leave them.

The cost is £10 for admission and guided tour.

Wednesday 20 April, **Leighton House Museum** at 10.45 am

Leighton House Museum is the former home of the Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton and the only purpose-built studio-house open to the public in Britain. Leighton's friend George Aitchison started to design the house in 1864, which was then extended and embellished over the next 30 years. From modest beginnings it grew into a 'private palace of art', an exquisite setting for an artist who championed Aestheticism. The most extraordinary feature is the Arab Hall, with its golden dome, intricate mosaics and walls lined with Islamic tiles. Upstairs, Leighton's vast painting studio was one of the sights of London, filled with paintings in different stages of completion. In 2010 the house was re-opened after an extensive refurbishment that returned it closer to Leighton's vision. The guided tour takes us through this remarkable house, filled with paintings and sculpture by Leighton and his contemporaries, and includes special access to the servants' quarters and the models' staircase. For those who haven't seen the house since it re-opened, it is well worth a return visit.

The cost is £12 for admission and the guided tour.

Please complete a separate booking form for each visit and bring your membership card with you.

GARDEN TOUR

Thursday 12 May 2016 10.30 am

KENWOOD SPRING TOUR

Join a tour of the Estate as the Head Gardener reveals secret love tokens to share with someone special!

Meet at the main entrance on the north side of the House and wear stout shoes.

This tour does not need a booking form.