

LECTURES AND EVENTS JUNE 2014 TO DECEMBER 2014

All lectures begin at 10.30 a.m. in the Old Kitchen

Sunday 15 June **Sargent: The Plein-Air Painter**

Richard Ormond A dazzling exhibition of Sargent's water-colours in America (2013-14) reminds us of what a gifted landscape painter he was, quite apart from his portraits. Our lecturer, joint-author of the nine-volume catalogue raisonné, has tracked Sargent across the world, and identified many of the sites where he painted. Drawing on family manuscripts and photographs, Richard brings to life the artist as a compulsive sketcher and the many beautiful places he recorded, chief among them the magical city of Venice.

Sunday 21 September **Scene from a Disaster: Géricault and 'The Raft of the Medusa'**

Dr Kathy McLauchlan

Géricault returned to France early in 1817 after several months of study in Italy. Keen to make his mark on the Paris art scene and in search of a good subject, he chose an incident which had both fascinated and outraged the French public just the year before – the shipwreck of the *Medusa*, flagship of a convoy of ships carrying French soldiers and settlers to the colony of Senegal in West Africa. Most of those left adrift died after horrific suffering. The government tried to cover up the affair, but two survivors revealed their experiences, generating a huge public scandal. This was the source for Géricault's monumental painting. Kathy McLauchlan, a specialist in French 19th century art, is Course Director for three year courses on the fine and decorative arts at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Sunday 19 October **Sir Hans Sloane and London**

Ian Foster

Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) was a famous scientist and a prolific collector, who gave his name to several London streets and squares, including Hans Crescent and Sloane Square. We also owe him the Physic Garden in Chelsea. In 1687 he travelled to Jamaica where he identified and recorded over eight hundred plants, written up in a two-volume *magnum opus*; 2014 is the 325th anniversary of Sloane's return from Jamaica.

President of the Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians, he left to the nation his vast collection of books, manuscripts, flora, fauna, medals, coins, seals, cameos and other objects. They formed part of the founding collections of the British Museum and the British Library and later enriched the Natural History Museum. Ian Foster, who has recently completed a biography of Sloane after several years of research, will talk about Sloane's many connections with the London of his time.

Sunday 16 November **Fabergé in London**

Geoffrey Munn

The Russian firm of Fabergé is a famous name in the history of jewellery, responsible for creating a series of fantastic jewelled eggs for the Russian czars. The London firm of Wartski, by appointment jewellers to the Queen and the Prince of Wales, has had a close association with Fabergé's work going back for a century. Geoffrey Munn, managing director of Wartski, and a distinguished scholar, author, curator and broadcaster, will talk about Fabergé in London.

Sunday 7 December **George Morland**

Marian Kamlish

The prolific, and now largely forgotten artist George Morland (1763-1804), was born and buried in what is now the London Borough of Camden. There is a fine example of his landscape painting in the Kenwood collection. This talk will focus mainly on the period in his life when he was living 'near Mother Red Caps on the road to Hampstead', now better known as Camden High Street. Morland sought inspiration for the backgrounds of many of his paintings in the countryside all around him, particularly the heaths and woodlands of Hampstead.

Marian Kamlish is the author of 'George Morland - a London artist in eighteenth-century Camden High Street'.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held after this lecture.

CELEBRITY LECTURE Thursday 9 October

To be given by Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery entitled *What Makes a Great Portrait?*
We are pleased to announce that our Ambassador, Melvyn Bragg, will introduce the lecture.

Invitations to follow separately

VISIT

Wednesday 22 October at 10.30

William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow

William Morris was one of the great Victorians whose vision still shapes our lives; designer, craftsman, poet and socialist campaigner. The elegant Georgian building which was once his family home is a museum dedicated to the life and work of this extraordinary polymath, who abandoned his first vocation as a clergyman to establish a new art movement and much else besides. A major refurbishment, which won the Museum of the Year Art Fund prize in 2013, has transformed the Museum's displays, including a reproduction of his workshop and examples of the many iconic designs that teemed from his fertile imagination. We shall have a Curatorial tour that focusses on Morris's life and the many facets of his work, artistic, social and political. We meet at the entrance to the William Morris Gallery at 10.30. The visit costs £18 which includes coffee/tea on arrival and the guided tour which lasts about an hour. There are only 30 places available on this tour so booking is necessary.

GARDEN VISITS

Saturday 4 October **Tree Workshop** with Bettina Metcalf.

Meet at the north front of the House at 10.00 am.

Learn how to identify the trees on Kenwood Estate. We will be walking around the Estate looking at bark, fruit, leaves and the overall shape of various broad-leaved and coniferous trees in order to learn how to identify the different genera and species.

Kenwood Estate has a rich collection of ornamental trees. By learning how to identify the trees, we will get a better appreciation of the diversity of the planting scheme.

Bettina Metcalf is an amateur dendrologist and an active member of the International Dendrology Society.

Wednesday 12 November **Autumn Garden Tour** with Paul Jackson

Meet at the north front of the House at 10.30 am for a meander round the Estate with Paul Jackson, Head Gardener, to see the autumn colours and the interesting changes taking place on the Estate.

Contact Elizabeth Inglis gardens@friendsofkenwood.org.uk

Please bring your membership card with you to all events.

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