

The Arts Society Bath Lecture Programme



7th October 2024

Nicola Moorby

Turner vs Constable: The Great British Paint-Off

This is the story of the epic rivalry between the two giants of British art, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable. As unlike in background and temperament as their paintings were in style, these two creative geniuses transformed the art of landscape. As well as giving an overview of Turner and Constable, the subject provides an enjoyable overview of the British art world during the nineteenth century.

4th November 2024

Giles Ramsay

David Garrick: Actor & Impresario



Following the trauma of the English Civil War came the Restoration, a period of loucheness and scandal. With the return of a King and the arrival of the first English actresses, the foundations were set for a more modern theatre to emerge in the C18th under the influence of the greatest actor/manager of the age - David Garrick.

2nd December 2024

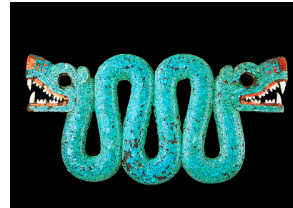
Paula Nuttall

The Christmas Story in Renaissance Art

The Christmas story is told through a selection of well-loved paintings and illuminated manuscripts by Italian and Flemish artists, including Botticelli, Fra Angelico and Jan van Eyck, together with many less well-known images. From the Annunciation to the Nativity, the Journey of the Kings and the Flight into Egypt, the lecture explores the rich symbolism of Christmas imagery.



6th January 2025 Chloe Sayer (Zoom only)



Arts & Crafts of Mexico, Past and Present

After the Spanish conquest of 1521, the raw materials, techniques and art styles of

Europe merged with those of the New World. Drawing on skills inherited from Aztec, Maya and Spanish predecessors, makers bring a modern vision to ancient traditions: exquisite textiles, silver jewellery, wooden dance-mats and fine pottery.

3rd February 2025 David Haycock

Two Hundred Years of British Surrealism



What is 'surrealism', where did it come from, and how did it influence twentieth century British art?

Looking at artists as diverse as William Blake, Francis Bacon, Henry Moore and Paul Nash - as well as writers such as

Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Lewis Carroll - this lecture answers all those questions and more.

3rd March 2025 Douglas Skeggs

17th Century Dutch Painting - Art in the Garden of God



Dutch art in the 17th Century dealt with the lives of real people: at times ordered, at others bawdy or self-important, and occasionally tragic. The new Protestant mentality allowed astonishing advances in science, as Rembrandt shows in his portrait of Dr Tulp; its merchant wealth reflected in

serene seascapes by Van de Veld and Van Goyen, its civic pride in the portraits of Frans Hals, and its insistence on moral order and well-scrubbed households in the poetry of Vermeer.

7th April 2025 Alexandra Epps

The Art of John Piper



From cathedrals to churches, cottages to coastlines, we are never very far from a place John Piper has painted, written about or for which he had undertaken a commission.

One of the most versatile

British artists of the 20th Century - painter, designer, stained glass artist, photographer and writer on the arts - he was a man of many parts.

12th May 2025 Angela Findlay

Art Behind Bars:

The Role of the Arts in Breaking the Cycle of Crime, Prison and Re-offending



Years of working as an artist within the Criminal Justice System in England and Germany have given the lecturer unique insights into the destructive and costly

cycle of crime, prisons and re-offending. In this thought-provoking talk she offers a deeper understanding of the minds, lives and challenges of offenders.

2nd June 2025 Sarah Cove

The Crack'd Visage:

The Conservation and Preservation of British Portraits

This lecture describes traditional portrait painting materials and techniques, beginning with Tudor and Jacobean workshop practices of the 16th and early 17th Centuries. These were originally derived from ecclesiastic decoration and manuscript illuminations and in many cases have suffered staggering amounts



of damage and crude restoration over the years. Later, more reliable painting methods were brought to England by continental painters such as Van Dyck, Lely, and Kneller.



Membership

The Arts Society Bath is a stimulating and active society, and provides a wonderful way of making new friends while pursuing a love of the Arts. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Annual Membership of The Arts Society Bath includes 9 lectures on the fine and decorative arts in the broadest sense, a monthly local newsletter and quarterly national magazine. We also support local projects promoting arts in the community.

Additionally, we run Special Interest Days and visits, together with access to many other arts activities via our nationwide membership of The Arts Society.

This year, our Special Interest Days are:

13 November 2024 at 10:30 - BRLSI, Queens Square.

Stuart Harvey, an Englishman living in Rome, will give 3 lectures on **Renaissance to Neoclassicism**. These will cover developments in the art and architecture of Rome in the 1500s, 1600s and 1700s.

19 March 2025 at 10:30: Widcombe Social Club.

The Silk Road. Led by Diana Driscoll, lecturer and Asia researcher at the British Museum. Visit Samarkand and other cities, gain insights into the art of the Mongolian Golden Age and the influence of later Eastern dynasties.

The Arts Society Bath is run by volunteers. Please contact us if you can spare just a few hours a month, either on the committee or in other ways, to ensure we continue to deliver a vibrant programme.

For information, assistance and membership details please contact us:

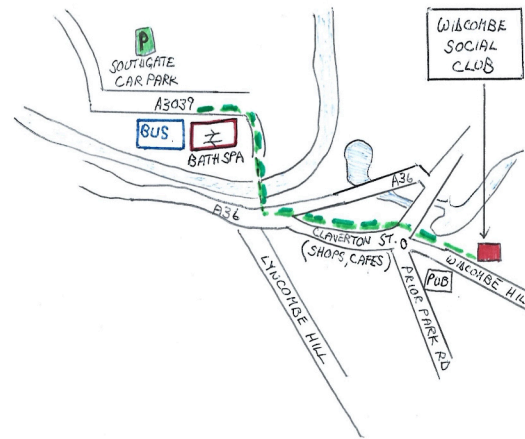
[email: bath@theartsociety.org](mailto:bath@theartsociety.org)

or visit

www.theartsocietybath.com.

The Arts Society Bath is affiliated to
The Arts Society

Lectures are held at Widcombe Social Club, Widcombe Hill, Bath and on Zoom.



The venue is situated at the bottom of Widcombe Hill and is a 10 minute stroll from the bus and railway stations.

The best route on foot is shown in green dots on the map: via the footbridge at the rear of Bath Spa rail station, across the A36 at the pedestrian lights and turn left along Widcombe Parade to Claverton St. Widcombe Social Club is on the left on Widcombe Hill (behind the Co-op) at the junction with Prior Park Road.

Further information is available from

www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk.

The number 2 bus, from bus stop BK across the road from the train station, will take you the one stop to Widcombe.

Please note: there is very little local parking.

The closest carpark is in Southgate, near the bus and train stations. For details:

www.southgatebath.com/facilities#car-park

Members accessing lectures online will be sent a link a few days in advance. Non-members and guests of members are welcome for a £10 entry fee and must book ahead.

email: bath@theartsociety.org



**The Lecture Programme
October 2024 to June 2025**

**A warm welcome
to The Arts Society Bath**

All lectures begin promptly at 11.30
and last about an hour.
Lectures are online via Zoom as
well as in the venue.