

PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2021

Please note the programme outlined here dates from August 2020. Our plans are subject to change in accordance with government advice for Covid-19. We apologise for any disappointment or inconvenience caused but must try ensure the well-being of our membership as far as we are able.

There will be no meetings in the Burgess Hall, St Ives, until January 2021. From September – December we will try to provide some suggestions for self- study around the topic that would have been presented, with the intention that the lecturers will be re-invited 12 months later. Suggestions will be sent out in the second week of the month.

Self-Study Topics

September 2020

Roman Times and Archaeology

October 2020

Renaissance Art at the time of Raphael

November 2020

Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament

December 2020

Art in a cold climate

Burgess Hall Lectures (subject to Government advice for Covid 19)

13 January 2021

Sandra Pollard

Omega and Charleston: Bloomsbury Decorative Arts

An integral part of the lives of Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and Roger Fry was an interest in the decorative arts, fully demonstrated in the formation of the Omega Workshops in 1913 and in the decoration of Charleston, the Sussex home Bell and Grant shared for fifty years and which is a wonderful embodiment of their style and way of life. This lecture looks at the enormous variety of projects they were involved in and the interiors and items they decorated with flair and exuberance.

10 February 2021

Antoony Penrose

Picasso, Man Ray and Max Ernst through the eyes of Lee Miller and Roland Penrose

A personal profile of giant figures in 20th century art. Picasso, Man Ray and Max Ernst were three of the key artists of the 20th century. They were also close friends of the Surrealist photographer Lee Miller and the Surrealist artist Roland Penrose. This is the hidden part of the story of a unique friendship which spanned the Surrealist movement and the last 30 years of Picasso's life. It is told by Antony Penrose who witnessed some of the events himself, using the words and images of those who were there. • Contains war and holocaust images that are highly disturbing.

10 March 2021

Rosalind Whyte

Antony Gormley: a Body of Work
(postponed from May 2020)

Antony Gormley's career spans nearly 40 years, during which time he has made sculpture that explores the relationship of the human body to space, often using his own body as his starting point. His work has been shown throughout the world, in galleries including the Tate in London and the Hermitage in St Petersburg, but is also often on open display, as public art, such as Another Place at Crosby Beach, near Liverpool. As well as works that he is well known for, like the iconic Angel of the North, this lecture will look at some of his earlier and less well-known works, to give an overall view of the development of his work across his whole career, up to the present time.

14 April 2020

Caroline Shenton –

Packing up the Nation: Storing Art Before the Nazi Invasion

(postponed from April 2020)

This is the gripping and sometimes hilarious story of how a band of heroic curators and eccentric custodians saved Britain's national heritage during our Darkest Hour. As Hitler's forces gathered on the other side of the Channel to threaten these islands, men and women from London's national museums, galleries and archives forged extraordinary plans to evacuate their collections to safety. Utilising country houses from Buckinghamshire to Cumbria, tube tunnels, Welsh mines and Wiltshire quarries, a dedicated team of unlikely heroes packed up their greatest treasures in a race against time during the sweltering summer of 1939, dispatching them throughout the country on a series of secret wartime adventures, retold in this talk.

12 May 2021

Sally Hoban

The Festival of Britain 1951 and its design legacy

The late 1940s was a time of great economic expansion for Britain after World War II and the 1951 Festival of Britain showcased the best of new British industry and design. Gerald Barry, the Festival's director, described it as a riot of "fun, fantasy and colour". It was held over five months at London's South Bank. Eight million people visited the site with attractions including the futuristic 'Skylon' sculpture and the Dome of Discovery. This lecture looks at how and why The Festival of Britain had a huge impact on people's perception of design (including graphics, textiles, ceramics and industrial design) and on design itself.

9 June 2021

Full lecture (TBA) and AGM

The following have been deferred from 2020. They have been provisionally booked but are subject to confirmation from lecturers.

September 2021

Guy de la Bedoyère

Villas in Roman Britain -The Architecture and Art of a remote Roman province

The villas of Roman Britain exist in their hundreds but only a very few are visible today. Recorded and excavated from places as far apart as Devon and county Durham, these country houses range from modest farmhouses to palaces. Within a small number of exceptions most reached their largest extents and greatest level of decoration in the late third and fourth centuries. The villas were where the wealthiest displayed their status by investing in extravagant mosaics that depicted mythological and religious scenes alongside abstract motifs. Here they held court at the heart of their rural estates, capitalizing on their control of local politics and economies. This lecture looks at these monuments from a variety of angles and can usually be tailored to a particular region or locality.

October 2021

James Lindow

The Genius of Raphael

This lecture charts the meteoric rise to prominence of the artist Raphael (1483-1520). In 1500, aged seventeen, Raphael entered the workshop of the successful Umbrian artist Pietro Perugino and so began his emergence as one of the greatest masters of the High Renaissance. While lacking his older rivals Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) and Michelangelo Buonarroti's (1475- 1564) advantage of being born and trained in Florence, he was generally admitted to be their equal. Raphael's early work is analysed alongside his commissions in Florence and for the Papacy in Rome which demonstrate the genius of his extraordinary talent.

November 2021

Tim Redmond

A tour of Big Ben

Big Ben is one of the most iconic buildings in the world – it identifies the UK and democracy in the Western world. But there is a lot more to this tower than the beautiful external gothic architecture; and Tim will prove this to you. Using stunning images, he will take you on a virtual tour of the interior, saving you the effort of climbing 334 spiral stairs. He will explain the historical background and discuss the friction between the often-controversial personalities involved in the building and designing of the tower. Tim will then take you behind those magnificent clock faces; show and explain the workings of the enormous clock mechanism; before finally taking you into the belfry and presenting before you – Big Ben, the most famous bell in the world! After all that excitement Tim will ensure you safely descend the stairs ready for your well-earned cup of tea!

December 2021

Sue Jackson

The Art of Snow and Ice: How artists transformed the winter landscape

The bleak midwinter held little appeal to the artist for many centuries until Bruegel's *Hunters in the Snow* in the 16th century. From pristine backdrop to the tempestuous snow storms of Turner to the capturing of 'snow effect' by the Impressionists, the ability of artists to convey snow as a symbol of peace but also of grandeur and terror is compelling.