



Lectures are at 11.30am for 1 hour at the Manx Museum Lecture Theatre and are streamed live to Zoom for members who prefer to watch at home or work. Venues, times and costs for Events will be notified to members and on Facebook.



17 SEPTEMBER 2024: FRANCIS WOODMAN

MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS



Stained glass is one of the glories of Medieval Art, once so common that no church was ‘complete’ without huge and expensive cycles of Biblical themes and lives of Saints. Time, Reformation, vandalism and war have cost us dear, but it is still possible to explore this most extravagant of art forms. We shall see early glass from the Romanesque world and the great debates it aroused, the extraordinary glass of Canterbury, the developments in Gothic France from dark and lustrous to bright and glowing and the late flowering of the art form across Northern Europe.

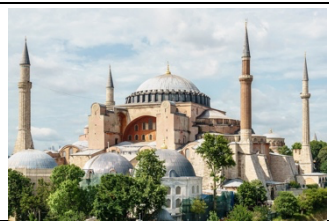
Picture: King William’s College Chapel, Castletown – North End Window.

Francis has a lectureship at the University of Cambridge and is based at the Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London, he specializes in art and architecture from the Romans to the Reformation

15 OCTOBER 2024: TIM ALLEN

DAY OF SPECIAL INTEREST EVENT – TWO LECTURES AND LUNCH

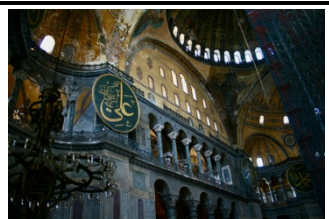
GLORY OF OTTOMAN ARCHITECTURE: THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE GREAT CHURCH OF HAGIA SOPHIA



OTTOMAN ARCHITECTURE

Timothy Allen’s talk starts with the enslavement of Sinan as a Janissary under Selim the Grim in 1512. Sinan prospered and was appointed Royal Chief Architect by Suleyman the Magnificent. Tim reviews the development of Islamic architecture for context. Sinan’s output was prolific; he built three vast Imperial Friday mosques, as well as smaller mosques, hamams, mausolea, bridges and aqueducts. He was based in Istanbul, but worked in Jerusalem, Mecca and Damascus.

Photos: Hagia Sophia



HAGIA SOPHIA

Tim starts with a historical context for Constantinople and for the site of Hagia Sophia. He covers the destruction of the previous churches and shows how Justinian chose a radical new design for his church. The incredible speed of construction is described, as is the unparalleled magnificence and beauty of the finished building. Its splendour helped initiate Russian orthodoxy. Tim describes fires, riots, rebellions, iconoclasm, excommunication, sackings and conquest by Islam.

Tim has spent many years living and working in the Near and Middle East and has come to love the history and architecture of the area. Since his retirement from aviation, he has been able to study specialist texts of Byzantine, Ottoman and Mughal architecture.

19 NOVEMBER 2024: PATRICK CONNER

GARDENS OF CHINA



‘Every emperor must have a garden where he may stroll and relax his heart.’ So believed the Qianlong Emperor, whose ‘Garden of Perfect Brightness’ displayed a variety of pavilions, lakes and fountains, blending Chinese and Western elements. Another great park was laid out in the mountains near Chengde; it was much admired by the first British visitors in 1793. By now views of these gardens had reached England, stimulating the fashion for landscape gardening. In the Forbidden City itself are ancient junipers, ‘scholars’ rocks’, peonies and other flowers; ‘Qianlong’s Garden’ includes spectacular trompe-l’oeil floral effects, which have recently been restored.

Photo by Rajiv Bajaj

Patrick is director of the Martyn Gregory Gallery, London. Author of several books including *Savage Ruskin*, *Oriental Architecture in the West* and *George Chinnery, artist of India and the China Coast*.

10 DECEMBER 2024: FENELLA BAZIN

VIKING WOMEN ON THE ISLE OF MAN



Fenella will explore the lives of Viking Women who left their Scandinavian homelands to make their mark on the Isle of Man. Memorial stones, grave goods and the sagas allow us a glimpse of just how powerful some of the women were.

Picture: Viking ship prow, Vikingskipshuset Oslo.

Fenella is an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, with lectures on the world of the Vikings and the art of northern Norway. Publications include several books on music of the Isle of Man, journal articles and entries in reference books on both sides of the Atlantic.

21 JANUARY 2025: OLGA VERSTAGE

JOSEPHINE BONAPARTE



General Viscount de Beauharnais married a young French woman from the exotic island of Martinique, Napoleon adored her and made her an Empress, she had hundreds of servants looking after her every whim... and then she was an Empress no more. This charming, exquisite woman was painted by Gerard and Appiani, commissioned furniture and textiles, and was surrounded by art to her very end at the early age of 50. Come and meet an iconic historical figure, the famous ‘Josephine’, and trace the progress of her extraordinary life.

Olga has a PhD in Classics and a BA in Arts History. She was Head of Classics at King William’s College for many years, and teaches Latin and Russian at the University College IOM. Olga also had been a sessional Art History lecturer for the University of Liverpool for fifteen years, covering a wide range of topics from various periods, and for nine years a History tutor for the University of Chester.

TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025: CHRIS ASLAN

THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND: THE ART ARCHITECTURE AND TEXTILES OF UZBEKISTAN



Uzbekistan in the heart of Central Asia boasts glittering mosques, madrassahs and minarets in the Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. These contrast wonderfully with the brutalist Soviet buildings of Tashkent, Urgench and Nukus. This lecture is an overview of the country, and a primer for anyone thinking of visiting.

Chris has studied and rowed at Oxford, and is now based in Cambridge, but with plans to move to North Cyprus. When he's not lecturing for The Arts Society, he writes. His latest book, *Unravelling the Silk Road*, is published by Icon Books.

4 MARCH 2025: INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY.

Citizens and Kings: Understanding the portraiture tradition in British and European Art.

SVETLANA CAMERON



Portraiture stands out in art as a genre with unique challenges. It requires an artist to be not only a keen observer and a skilled draughtsman, but also a good psychologist who can establish an emotional connection with the sitter, read the body language, sense the mood, analyse the character and create an artistic impression which goes beyond physical likeness and captures the essence of a person.

Picture: Svetlana Cameron.

In her talk portrait artist Svetlana Cameron will explore origins of portraiture in the European art and reasons why the tradition to commission painted portraits is still very much alive and popular in British society.

Svetlana is one of UK's established artists specializing in traditional portraiture. Her painting style reflects her dedication to the revival and modern interpretation of Old Masters' techniques.

15 APRIL 2025: JULIAN RICHARDS

Cars in Art



Speed! Technology! Destruction! The battle cry of the Futurists. WWI heralded the appearance of the car as a powerful symbol in avant-garde art. Soon the Art Deco masterpieces of the great car builders came to epitomise style, luxury and craftsmanship, works of art in their own right.

Julian has been involved in teaching and outreach projects, lecturing widely in continuing education, to groups and societies and to special interest tour companies. A career in broadcasting involved researching and presenting *Meet the Ancestors* and *Blood of the Vikings* for BBC2, and *Mapping the Town* for Radio 4.

20 MAY 2025: Hilary Williams

THE FRICK COLLECTION.



The Frick Collection, New York, is one of the finest-quality museums in the world. It belongs largely to the Gilded Age of American connoisseurship of the early years of the 20th century and is a testament to the taste of its founder, steel magnate, Henry Clay Frick. He died on the eve of WWI after being able to collect some of the best pieces available in Europe and America. His agents were really effective, and the result is a first rate collection of fine French furniture, enamels, porcelain, paintings by Bellini, Van Eyck, Holbein, Titian, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Dyck, Rubens, El Greco, Velázquez, Fragonard, Ingres, Renoir, JMW Turner, Constable, Whistler and many others.

Picture: Henry Clay Frick.

Hilary formerly Print Room Superintendent at the British Museum, now Art History Education Officer. Lectures for BM, London Borough of Bexley and Wallace Collection. Liaison officer at British Museum with The Arts Society. Founding Artistic Director of The Arts Society of North Kent Evening. Guides Special Interest Private Tours of State Apartments Buckingham Palace.

17 JUNE 2025: TONY FABER

AMERICAN WEST IN ART



Tony uses art of the nineteenth century to tell the story of the westward expansion of the United States from the first explorations and contacts with native Americans to the near extermination of the buffalo.

Picture: By Ceyatano Gil

Toby is an experienced lecturer and public speaker who has been accredited by The Arts Society since 2012. His career began with Natural Sciences at Cambridge and has been through investment banking, management consulting and five years as managing director of the publishing company founded by his grandfather, Faber and Faber, where he remains on the board.

The Arts Society Isle of Man, which is not a charity, was formed in 1996 by an enthusiastic group who laid the foundations for today's local society. It is an autonomous unincorporated members society and pays an annual fee to The Arts Society (a registered charity in England and Wales, and Scotland) to access support functions and to assist with its activities.

New members are welcome. To join the Arts Society Isle of Man, contact Sue Creer on suecreer@hotmail.com or Liz Berry on lizberry@manx.net

A Lecture or Event may be cancelled or changed at short notice. Members will be advised by email and Facebook.