



**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
COVENTRY**

The Arts Society Coventry is a great way for people to connect with the arts and each other. Our 2023/24 series of exciting and varied monthly lectures commences on **Tuesday 19th September**. It will be held in our new venue – the theatre at Barr’s Hill School, Radford Road, Coventry, CV1 4BU. Subsequent lectures will be in the same location on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Details of the programme are shown overleaf.

Doors open at 6.30pm so you can meet other members over a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink before the lecture starts at 7pm.

For information about joining please email membership.coventry@theartsociety.org or visit theartsociety.org/coventry



THE ARTS SOCIETY COVENTRY PROGRAMME 2023/24

Tuesday 19th September 2023

Ashley Gray: The Post War Textile Visionaries of Modern Art (Fashion/textiles)

Post war, the world of fashion, interiors and modern art fused with dynamic results. From Matisse and the flamboyant Parisian modernists, to the cutting edge of the St Ives school, this lecture considers the role fashion and textiles played in democratising modern art through the eyes of two innovative textile visionaries.

Tuesday 24th October 2023

Helen Oakden: Marina Abramovic (Royal Academy Exhibition Sept–Dec 2023) (Performing Art)

Abramovic is the pioneer of performance art. This talk covers her 50-year career from its dramatic beginnings to how the artist, now in her 70s, has developed her work to reflect her changing perceptions of the world. It poses the question of whether performance art can outlive the performance itself; are the photos, videos, and re-performances of younger artists just as valid?

Tuesday 28th November 2023

Ian Swankie: Pots & Frocks: The World of Grayson Perry from Essex Punk to Superstar National Treasure (Ceramics)

Best known for his outlandish appearances dressed as his feminine alter ego, Claire, Grayson Perry is now a core part of the art establishment, a Turner Prize winner, Royal Academician, popular broadcaster, and colourful character. This talk will examine Grayson Perry's work, his exciting and thought-provoking exhibitions, and the unique character inside the flamboyant frocks.

Tuesday 7th December 2023

Christmas Gathering for members

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Aliki Braine: Painting Is Dead Long Live Photography! (Photography)

When the new process of photography was formally introduced and demonstrated to a joint meeting of the Académie des Science and Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris in January 1839, the history painter Delaroche is reported to have exclaimed, "from today, painting is dead!" This lecture charts and outlines the birth of photography in the early nineteenth century and how its invention transformed and influenced the use, purpose and aesthetic of painting.

Tuesday 27th February 2024

Bertie Pearce: The Punch and Judy Show (Theatre)

Mr Punch – the most famous puppet character of all time. Appearing in England in 1662, Punch is descended from the

Italian Clown Pulcinella of the 15th C Commedia Del'Arte tradition. Even today this Lord of Misrule uses his slapstick to dispense with oppressive authority, be it politicians, political correctness, or the devil, while proclaiming his notorious refrain, "That's the way to do it!"

Tuesday 26th March 2024

Amy Lim: Women Artists in Britain: (An Exhibition at Tate Britain May 2024) (Fine Art)

An exhibition to be held at Tate Britain from May–July 2024 will showcase women artists working in Britain from the sixteenth century to the First World War. Besides well-known artists such as Angelica Kauffman and Rosa Bonheur, it will introduce lesser-known figures who were highly successful in their day. As a researcher on this exhibition, the lecture includes a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how the exhibition was put together.

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Simon Whitehouse: Wilde About Oscar: Famous for being Famous (& Infamous) (Literature)

This talk examines the life and times of Oscar Wilde from his Irish roots to his days as a student at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity. We travel with him to the United States and examine his starring role within the artistic and theatrical worlds of late 19th century London. Finally, we learn how 'tired of being in the heights', he plunged into the depths' and became famous for being infamous.

Tuesday 28th May 2024

Sandy Burnett: The Age of Jazz (Music)

Jazz is one of music's most important genres: a fascinating blend of rigorous structure, free-wheeling creativity, close-knit ensembles and imaginative improvisation. This talk covers the early years of jazz up to the Second World War, and touches on the disparate influences which lay behind the emergence of jazz. Musical illustrations range from the blues, ragtime and the very first jazz recordings through to classics by Louis Armstrong's Hot Five and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and the dawn of the Swing Era.

Tuesday 25th June 2024

Colin Shindler: The Great Train Robbery & the Making of the Film Buster (Film)

It was one of the best remembered crimes of the 1960s and probably the only one in which the public took the side of the criminals to the fury of the Establishment which was, at the same time, dealing with the fallout from the Profumo Affair. Twenty-five years later, I resurrected the event by writing the screenplay for a film about the robbery, concentrating on one of the gang leaders, Buster Edwards. This lecture tells the story of the robbery and the compromises made to raise the money to make the film.