

THE FORENSIC EYE

with Dr Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe

Tuesday 16 April 2024

A study day organised by The Arts Society BRIGHTON & HOVE (A member society of The Arts Society)



Following her very well received lecture on *Raphael* to the Arts Society Brighton & Hove in October 2023, Dr. Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe returns to the Brighthelm Centre for a much anticipated study day.

How do dealers, auctioneers and museum staff determine whether a piece is by one painter or another? What role does the signature play, and what are the key clues to look for when deciding who painted the picture? And how can we be sure that what we see on the wall in front of us is the painting the artist produced? Damage, alterations and downright forgeries are all things we need to recognise and take into consideration.

In this study day, we consider clues, weigh up their relative usefulness, and learn some of the tricks of the connoisseur. The day ends with a chance to try out your skills, identifying artists and oddities in “spot the artist”.

Lecture 1 *Looking with the Eyes Wide Open*

We can stand for minutes in front of a painting and think we are seeing it, but how much have we actually noticed? How much more could we take in if we have a mental check list of things to look for, if we know how to know what is significant to notice. In this first session, we will consider many of the basic stylistic features of a painting, from colouring to the uses of lighting, to analyse how different artists tend to use them at different times and in different art centres. Do we ever notice any technical aspects of the piece – is it on canvas or on panel, for instance, - and does it matter? What can an awareness of the pigments used, or the artist’s choice of ground colour, tell us about where and when something was painted?

Lecture 2 *Tricks, Tips and Trip-Ups*

In the second lecture, we will look at various forms of deception. We will ask whether we are seeing what the artist produced, or whether time, or later human intervention, has altered it. We will also look at paintings that they would have us believe are by one artist, but which are produced by workshop assistants, later admirers, or downright forgers. Determining the difference between forgery, copy and original is one of the most difficult areas of the art world. Chantal will involve the audience in spotting oddities, distinguishing copyists and identifying forgeries.

Lecture 3: *Finding your Inner Connoisseur*

The first two talks will have looked at a number of physical and stylistic features that make it possible for us to identify date, place of production and art background of an artist. This final talk will examine a specific group of artists, and give you a chance to try out your budding connoisseurial skills of recognition.

Your Lecturer

Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe started her career by training as a paintings conservator, and then moved into art history, working for Sotheby's. She has been a lecturer in Old Master Paintings at Sotheby's Institute of Art for over 30 years. She has also lectured for a number of institutions in London and elsewhere, including the National Gallery, the Royal Academy, the Wallace Collection and the Arts Society. Her particular interest is in demonstrating how to analyse the subtle stylistic features of a painting that might tell us who the artist is, and when a painting is a copy, good or bad.

Location

The Hanover Room, Brighthelm Centre, North Street, Brighton BN1 1YD

The Brighthelm Centre is centrally located in Brighton, 5 minutes walk from Brighton Station and served by a number of bus routes.

Car parking: The car park adjacent to the Brighthelm Centre is very expensive. Much cheaper, whilst not cheap, and 5 and 10 minutes' walk away respectively, are the car parks at Trafalgar Street and Churchill Square, which are each about £17.00 for 6 hours parking.

Timetable

10:00. *Arrive*
10:20 First lecture
11:20 *Coffee/Tea*
11:40 Second lecture
12:40 *Lunch*
13:40 Third lecture
14.40 *Finish*

Costs and how to Book

Please see attached booking form.

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Study Day Booking Form

The cost of the study day including morning coffee/tea and biscuit is £25. A sandwich lunch, including a glass of wine or juice, is available for an extra £10. Please note that whilst we can provide a vegetarian option, we are sorry, we cannot cater for other dietary requirements. There are, however, many food outlets within 5 to 10 minutes walk of the Brighthelm Centre.

To Book

Please complete this booking form and either (a) send by email to **treasurer.brightonhove@theartsociety.org**, or (b) bring to one of our monthly lectures at the Brighthelm Centre, North Street, Brighton (10:45 am on second Tuesday of month).

To Pay (please note payment is due at time of booking to secure your place)

Please pay either (a) by BACS Payment to CAF Bank: Sort Code: 40-52-40: A/c No 00060152: Account: The Arts Society Brighton & Hove, including **Study** in the reference or (b) at the monthly lecture by cash, card, or cheque (payable to 'The Arts Society Brighton & Hove').

(Booking forms and cheques may also be sent by post to the Treasurer: Jeremy Thomas at 48 Rottingdean Place, Falmer Road, Brighton BN2 7FS. **If using this option please also send an email as above** to ensure your booking is recorded.)

This study day is limited to 50 places and bookings will be taken in order of receipt. You may email the Treasurer to check on availability before booking. Any other questions, please contact Jeremy Thomas: telephone 07503 162706.

Name(s)			
Address			
Member Society (e.g Brighton & Hove)			
Tel No:	Email:		
Lunch: (Yes/No)			
Vegetarian: (Yes/No)			
Drink option (please tick one)	Red wine.....	White wine.....	Juice
Amount paid (£25 per person or £35 per person with lunch)			
Payment method:(Cash/cheque/card/BACS)			
Date paid			