

2024 The Arts Society West Cornwall Programme

January 11 th	Charlie Waite	<p>The Making of Landscape Photographs</p> <p>A fully illustrated talk exploring the relationship between the making of an image and the way in which it is perceived by the viewer - the eye and the brain being an extraordinary double act of visual references and intellectual interpretation.</p>
February 8 th	Amy Lim	<p>The People and Portraits of Stanley Spencer's Final Years</p> <p>Stanley Spencer (1891-1959) is one of the greatest British artists of the twentieth century. Although less well known than his imaginative paintings, portraiture was also an important part of Spencer's artistic practice, especially in his final decade when he was in high demand as a commercial portrait painter. This lecture will explore Spencer's views on portraiture, and the role it played in his life and work. Through his paintings, we will meet many of the people around him, from friends and neighbours to figures of national importance.</p>
March 14 th	Simon Inglis	<p>The Athletic Aesthetic – Your Arts Society Guide to the 2024 Olympics</p> <p>From July to September 2024, Paris will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. But whilst most onlookers will focus on sport, art and design will also play a part, as they have since the games began at Olympia nearly three thousand years ago. Greek art is replete with representations of athletes on vases, plates and bronzes. Every four years, modern day hosts unveil dazzling new architecture, in the form of stadia, arenas, velodromes and swimming pools. The athletes themselves act as torch bearers for ever-changing ideals of physical perfection. From nudity to Nike, from sand to synthetics, the Olympic story offers art lovers pure gold.</p>
April 18 th	Daniel Robbins	<p>A Private Place of Art: Frederick Leighton's Studio House</p> <p>Frederick Leighton's studio-house (now Leighton House Museum) is one of the most remarkable buildings of the nineteenth-century. First built in the 1860s, Leighton continued to extend and embellish his home over the next thirty years, transforming what had been a relatively modest house into a palace of art filled with fascinating collections of fine and decorative art. The construction of the exotic Arab Hall, lined with Islamic tiles collected as Leighton travelled through the Middle East, brought new fame to the house as Leighton's reputation continued to grow. This lecture explores Leighton's motivations in lavishing such attention on the construction of his home and how it came to embody the idea of how a Great Artist should live.</p>
May 9 th	Magdalen Evans	<p>Oak trees, the Royal Navy and the Shipyards of the East Coast</p> <p>Sailing Boats have always occupied a pivotal place in Western Art. From mediaeval manuscripts, through Old Masters depicting exploration and military might, to modern objects of everyday life, they pervade the British imagination of young and old alike. This lecture will display paintings as well as many other forms of art which celebrate our island race's fascination with our maritime history. In order to provide a firm case study, I will show how the high quality of the woodlands in East Anglia gave rise to a flowering of boatyards along the estuaries and coastline of the North Sea, resulting in bountiful commissions from both the Royal Navy and commercial patrons. Several still survive, where shipwrights train apprentices in traditional boatbuilding, and an interesting connection with modern art and film-making thrives. I will show slides of stained glass, ceramics, tapestries, antiquarian book covers, advertising posters, weather vanes, chandeliers, pub signs and even topiary, all inspired by the English sailing boat.</p>

June 13 th AGM	Julian Halsby	<p>Amedeo Modigliani and the Bohemian Paris 1906 - 1920</p> <p>Modigliani remains one of the most popular artists of the 20th century. We discuss his short life in some detail, looking at his early development and his arrival and life in Paris from 1906 to his death in 1920. Modigliani was at the centre of Bohemian Paris and was a close friend of Maurice Utrillo, Picasso, Max Jacob, Moise Kisling, Chaïm Soutine and many other painters and writers who made up Bohemian Paris. We will be looking at the influences on his painting and sculpture, including Cézanne, African Art and Cubism, and show how he developed a highly individual style of his own. We will look at his haunting portraits and sensual nudes while exploring the Bohemian life of Montmartre.</p>
		<p>Summer Recess & Membership party</p>
September 12 th	Paul Rabbitts	<p>A Concise History of Our Great British Parks</p> <p>This really is a fascinating insight into the history of one of our greatest ever institutions - our Great British Public Park. We have all enjoyed them at some time in our lives, but what do we really know about them? What are their origins? This talk illustrates their origins from the great Royal Parks to the Pleasure Gardens of the Eighteenth century, to their Victorian heyday. It discusses what makes a great park, its 'parkitecture' with examples of lodges, lakes, bandstands, fountains, lidos, palm houses and their wonderful floral displays, to their great decline in the sixties, seventies and eighties. However, the subsequent revival has led to a major shift in interest in our parks, and once again, we are very much in love with them. This is a highly illustrative lecture accompanied by slides with examples of parks from across the UK and their designs and architecture and can be shaped to the locality of the lecture.</p>
October 10 th	Steve King	<p>The Story Behind The Song</p> <p>The Drifters recorded <i>Save The Last Dance For Me</i> in 1960, with Ben E King on lead vocals, but what single event in the life of one of its writers inspired the track? Was <i>Every Breath You Take</i> by The Police really written as a love song? What is the truth about the Beatles song <i>Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds</i>, and why did George Harrison stop composing for three years in 1976? We all have personal memories we associate with individual songs, but each song has its own story. In this lecture, the real stories behind some of the world's best known songs are revealed.</p>
November 14 th	Ashley Gray	<p>Textile Revolution; Post-War Female Designers</p> <p>The history of Britain is intricately woven with the history of textiles. Following World War II there was a desire for change, colour, and inspiration in the home. This energy and innovation was led by female textile designers destined to revolutionise design internationally for decades to come. This lecture celebrates their vision, their influences and their determination that successfully brought modern and contemporary art into the home through their designs and thereby democratising modern art for the first time by making it literally a part of the furniture.</p>
December 5 th	Patrick Craig	<p>Chant and the Origins of Polyphony</p> <p>The Old Testament book of Psalms is full of exhortations to worship God through song. But for the majority of history, music has been shared without it ever being written down. Patrick will trace the origins of chant, the birth of polyphony and the invention of notation. He will feature some of the most imaginative and spectacular pieces of music that are based on a foundation of Gregorian chant. He will also reflect on his recent experience of leading his all-female professional choir Aurora Nova through a full 24-hour marathon of chant, recreating the monastic services of the Divine Office.</p>