

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN e.V. is a registered association recognised by the German authorities as a charity. A donation certificate is obtainable for the membership fee and any other donations. The annual subscription fee is €85.00 per ordinary member or €100.00 per sustaining member.

Non-members are always welcome. The entrance fee for non-members is €15.00 per person and lecture. We offer a 50% student reduction.

Our members receive THE ARTS SOCIETY house magazine three times a year by post or online.

If you wish to **become a member**, please visit our website or contact our Membership Secretary:

Email: membership@theartssocietyberlin.com

Web: theartssocietyberlin.com/membership-2/

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Unless it is terminated in time, your membership continues for successive one-year periods. Please transfer your subscription fee of €85.00 or €100.00 into our bank account **by 27 January 2025** at the latest:

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN e. V.
IBAN: DE57 1007 0848 0463 9365 00
BIC: DEUTDEDB110

Board

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN e.V. is a Member Society of THE ARTS SOCIETY in the UK, and was founded in 1996 as **BRIDFAS, British Decorative and Fine Arts Society Berlin**, with the aim to promote the appreciation and study of the fine arts in their widest sense and to stimulate a greater awareness of our international cultural heritage.

The **lecture season 2025** starts in January and ends in November. It includes **8 ordinary lectures** (and, in addition, **2 bonus lectures, courtesy of THE ARTS SOCIETY Hamburg**). All lectures are illustrated digitally by images and are given in the English language by experts from the UK. They cover a wide and varied range of artistic, historic and cultural subjects.

Visits to local museums and places of historical interest as well as excursions in the vicinity of Berlin are offered and listed on our website.

Patron: Kieran Drake
Deputy Head of Mission
British Embassy Berlin

THE ARTS SOCIETY is the operating name of The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) founded in Buckinghamshire, England in 1968 by the late Patricia Fay. It is a leading arts education charity with a global network of over 350 local Societies which bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts, and represents a worldwide membership of over 90,000. Its aim was and is to stimulate interest in the preservation of the cultural heritage and it is an association based on the love of Arts. Each Society organises its own series of talks. Lecturers are recommended by THE ARTS SOCIETY, London, proven for their academic knowledge of their subjects and their lecturing ability.

And as NADFAS founder Patricia Fay once said:

“Above all, NADFAS should be fun.”

We, the Board, the Committee and the members of THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN agree wholeheartedly.



LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025



<https://theartssocietyberlin.com/>

Former
British Decorative and Fine Arts Society Berlin
(BRIDFAS Berlin)

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2025

Please note: We present all our lectures as hybrid events (unless otherwise stated) which means that they are held on-site at the Community Hall of The All Saints Church and, at the same time, online via Zoom. For more details, society news, the registration form for Zoom lectures and any changes in the programme, please visit our website.

Wednesday, 15 January 2025 (Zoom only)

THE JURASSIC WORLD OF MARY ANNING by Dr Aaron Hunter

An introduction to 19th century palaeontologist Mary Anning who searched the Jurassic rocks of England's south coast to unearth what were believed to be sea dragons and which we now call marine reptiles. **COURTESY OF TAS HAMBURG**

Monday, 27 January 2025 (Zoom only)

STONE ON STONE: THE MEN WHO BUILT THE CATHEDRALS by Imogen Corrigan

In this lecture we meet the Master Masons who both designed cathedrals and ran the site. They commanded everything whether it was sourcing the vast quantities of wood and stone, recruiting the workforce or knowing enough about their various trades to be able to create heaven on earth out the cacophony of thousands of chisels and hammers. These men were charismatic leaders, but they were continually checked by their fellow Master Masons in the interests of making a building as strong as possible - we only see their successes, after all. They were real people who got into trouble with the law, who occasionally cheated on contracts, who liked to start a job but not to finish it. Their creations remain to this day, some breathtakingly beautiful in their exquisite detail causing us, centuries later, to stand in a nave and wonder.

Tuesday, 4 February 2025 (Zoom only)

AFTER MISS JEKYLL: ENGLISH GARDENS OF THE LATE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES by James Bolton

The long shadow of the Arts and Crafts Movement has hung over English gardening for most of the 20th century. The dominance of Miss Jekyll and the enduring popularity of gardens at Hidcote and Sissinghurst have proved to be an enduring legacy. There were always subversive undercurrents of alternative styles and influences which, as the new century gets into its stride, have gained a greater importance and momentum. The New Perennial movement, originating in Europe, has allied itself to our increasing desire to go organic and the interest in woodland and wild-flower meadows to produce a freer, gentler style of painting, spearheaded by Tom Stuart-Smith, perhaps more in tune with the 21st century.

COURTESY OF TAS HAMBURG

Monday, 24 February 2025

MORE THAN JUST BUNS: EATING OUT IN GEORGIAN LONDON by Peter Ross

Georgians of all classes dined out in pubs, coaching inns, French ordinaries and confectioners. They also ate all kinds of street food and had an almost insatiable appetite for buns. On a journey through London we will discover the early morning

drinks consumed on the street before dawn, 'nunchions' served at coaching inns, Billingsgate dinners, confectioners' cakes, syllabubs and ices, the proverbially thin ham dished up to diners at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, as well as the Jewish takeaway foods of the East End and even London's first 'Indian' restaurant. Our journey will be illustrated from prints, paintings and broadsides of the period, some long neglected as a source for a forgotten but fascinating part of our Georgian ancestors' way of life.

Monday, 24 March 2025

CITIES OF THE HANSEATIC LEAGUE by Simon Rees

Beginning in Lübeck and Hamburg in the 13th century, the Hanseatic League eventually linked some 60 European cities in a series of trade agreements that transcended national bounds. Towns like Riga, Stockholm, London, Bremen and Danzig were all connected by an intricate series of contracts, defended by armed forces and a powerful navy, and vital to the economic prosperity of each city. The Brick Gothic style of architecture developed during this period, and many important churches, town halls, etc. were built in this style, many of which survive to this day. Understanding the importance of the Hanseatic League is essential to a knowledge of European mercantile history from the 13th to the 17th century, and to an appreciation of the art and architecture inspired and paid for by this vital transnational association.

Monday, 28 April 2025

BETTY JOEL: GLAMOUR AND INNOVATION IN 1930s DESIGN by Clive Stewart-Lockhart

Betty Joel, born Mary Stewart Lockhart, ran a furniture making and design business. At its peak, in the 1920s and 30s, Betty Joel Ltd employed 50 craftsmen and had showrooms in Knightsbridge. With no formal training, she created, through a flair for branding and marketing, the leading furnishing company of the day in London. The talk explores her early life and marriage to David Joel, exhibitions, and projects. Her clients included royalty, high society, politicians, banks, hotels as well as film companies and theatres. With rare access to three surviving schemes, the style and glamour of 1930s' design is brought to life and retells the story of a determined woman in a world still run by men.

Monday, 26 May 2025

7pm: ORDENTLICHE MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG followed by **SECRETS OF AFFLUENT MAYFAIR** by Ian Swankie
Just north of Piccadilly, in the city of Westminster, is the historic district of Mayfair, now one of the most affluent neighbourhoods in the world. In this armchair tour, we'll discover the humble early roots of this area and later its aristocratic appeal. We'll visit famous gardens such as Berkeley Square and Grosvenor Square, see posh shops, private members' clubs, beautiful buildings including stately Georgian townhouses, plenty of public art and many hidden corners. As we duck in and out of alleyways and mews, we'll discover some of the secrets behind the silk curtains and gilded shutters of Mayfair.

Monday, 29 September 2025

THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN: NORWAY'S GOLDEN AGE OF PAINTING by Stella Grace Lyons

Why isn't Norwegian art better known? Should it be? The late 19th century marked a defining moment in Norway. For the first time romantic painters began to turn to their own land for inspiration. They painted the stormy seas, the towering glaciers and the raw, untamed nature of their homeland. Their aim? To draw attention to the beauty of their country and explore what it meant to be 'Norwegian'. This talk looks at the artists from Norway's 'Golden Age' who captured the far north with drama and romance and interpreted their wild country as a mythical, eerie entity. It will explore the stunning works of JC Dahl, Peder Balke, Nikolai Astrup and Harald Sohlberg. This is the chance to discover some of art's most underappreciated artists!

Monday, 27 October 2025

300 YEARS OF BLENHEIM PALACE'S HISTORY AND THE CONTINUING BATTLE FOR BLENHEIM by Antonia Keaney

An overview of Blenheim Palace's rich and chequered history which looks at why the Palace took so long to build - and why it was never completed; the Dukes and Duchesses that made positive contributions to the Estate as well as those who did exactly the opposite - and, of course a look at the Palace's greatest son - Winston Churchill.

Monday, 24 November 2025

A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS AND GOD BLESS US EVERYONE by Bertie Pearce

Dickens has often been proclaimed as "The Man Who Invented Christmas" and indeed on hearing that Dickens had died, a cockney barrow-girl said: "Dickens dead? Then will Father Christmas die too?" Dickens revived the Christmas traditions with his warm portrayal of Christmas in the domestic setting; with plum pudding, piping hot turkey, games, dancing and family cheer by the hearth. Although he celebrated Christmas in numerous works it is his enduring master piece, 'A Christmas Carol' published on 19th December 1843 which immortalises the spirit of Christmas Cheer. Dickens was a man of extraordinary energy and talent: literary genius, reformer, public speaker, actor and amateur magician. In his lecture Bertie Pearce reveals a Dickensian Christmas with readings, biographical details and conjuring tricks.

WHERE TO FIND US

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN meets mostly on the last Monday of the month for eight lectures during the year at the **Community Hall of The All Saints Church, Hüttenweg 46, 14195 Berlin** (U3 Oskar-Helene-Heim, Bus 285 Waldfriedhof Dahlem) and **online on Zoom**.

Lectures begin at 8 pm (on-site and online). Doors open from 7.30 pm for sale of wine and soft drinks. Zoom meetings start at 7.45 pm.

After the lectures you are cordially invited for wine and refreshments. **Non-members are always very welcome!**