

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@theartsocietyberlin.com

Web: theartsocietyberlin.com/membership

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 **new** bank account **by 26 January 2026** at the latest:

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN e. V.
IBAN: DE59 1009 0000 3086 3020 03
BIC: BEVODEBBXXX

Board

Chair Sabine Bodenhorn

**Vice Chair/
Programme Secretary** David Ashley

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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 2026** starts in January and ends in November. It includes **8 ordinary lectures** (plus **one bonus lecture** for our members in **celebration of the Society's 30th anniversary**).

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 2026



<https://theartsocietyberlin.com>

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

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2026

Please note: We present all our lectures as hybrid events (unless otherwise stated) which means that they are held on-site at our new venue, the Vortragsraum of The Allied Museum 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.

Monday, 26 January 2026, Zoom only

THE LIFE & WORK OF MAY MORRIS: A "REMARKABLE WOMAN"

by Fiona Rose

Towards the end of her life May Morris (1862-1938) - designer, craftsperson, and younger daughter of William Morris - wrote, 'I'm a remarkable woman, always was, though none of you seem to think so'. Overshadowed in her lifetime by the achievements of her illustrious father, thankfully today May Morris is recognised as a leading figure in the Arts & Crafts Movement. Excelling in the field of embroidery, she was Head of Embroidery at Morris & Co. by the time she was twenty-three. May also designed wallpapers, made jewellery and was a talented amateur watercolour artist. She was instrumental in founding the Women's Guild of Arts formed to support women working in the arts and crafts field at a time when they were excluded from similar organisations. A skilled editor, May spent her later years editing the 24 volumes of her father's collected works.

Monday, 23 February 2026

19TH CENTURY TRAVELLERS IN SCOTLAND

by Norman Tennent

This lecture focuses on the travels of artists, musicians and writers in Scotland during the period when the romance of the Highlands, fostered by the tales of Ossian, made Scotland a destination for those such as Turner, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Dorothy and William Wordsworth and Coleridge. The talk is illustrated by the music of Chopin and Mendelssohn. The routes of the travellers and the highlights (including Fingal's Cave, the Falls of Clyde, the Trossachs, etc.) are shown by means of slides of paintings and drawings (including Mendelssohn's little known sketches), as well as present-day views of the same scenes.

Monday, 30 March 2026

THE GLORIES OF ANCIENT ROME

by Dr Paul Roberts

Rome, as we all know, was not built in a day. It took centuries to construct the eternal city, and Rome's glorious monuments and those who created them are the focus of this talk. It is sometimes hard to see beyond the ruins of today, so using masterpieces of Roman art and reconstructions and with the Emperors as our guides, we'll go on a journey through Rome in its golden prime: from the splendid civic hubs of the great Imperial Forums to the beautiful, soaring temples of the gods, the dazzling gleam of marble and mosaic in the great public baths and the roar of the crowds at the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum.

Monday, 27 April 2026

LONDON, NEW YORK, ST IVES: THE AVANT GARDE IN CORNWALL 1939 TO 1964.

by Sarah Burles

The arrival of Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth and Naum Gabo in St Ives at the beginning of the Second World War marked a significant moment, both for them and for the artists already living and working in the small Cornish town. These three artists were key players in British modernism and soon challenged the status quo of the existing artists' colony, established at the end of the 19th century. They inspired and, in Hepworth's case employed, a younger generation of artists before they too were challenged by new ideas. This lecture will chart the rise of St Ives as a centre for modern art after the war and show that it was not only Nicholson, Hepworth and Gabo who achieved international success but other artists such as Peter Lanyon, Roger Hilton, Terry Frost and Wilhelmina Barns-Graham. This success led to the town becoming a focal point for post-war avant-garde art which led the eyes of the modern art world to focus, for a brief period, on St Ives.

Monday, 18 May 2026

7pm: ORDENTLICHE MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG followed by ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S LONDON: SHAPING A CITY FOR SUSPENSE

by Richard Burnip

In this lecture we will learn how the great film director Alfred Hitchcock used London, and how it influenced his life and his art. Still both instantly recognisable and widely acclaimed over 40 years after his death, Hitchcock's greatest and best-remembered movies are usually selected from his Hollywood days. However, he spent almost exactly half his life in London and Essex, and the influences of these formative years on his later work were enormous. From his inventive use of London locations in the 1920s and '30s in classics such as *The Lodger* and *The 39 Steps*, to his inspired deployment on film of the West End's theatre stars, Hitchcock never forgot the city. And as it helped shape his life and imagination, so he shaped it on the cinema screen.

Monday, 15 June 2026, Members only, no Zoom

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY BERLIN including the lecture OH NO DEAR, THAT'S NOT FUNNY; CARTOONISTS ON CARTOONING

by Harry Venning

Join award winning cartoonist Harry Venning as he escorts you through the peaks and pitfalls of his profession, supported by visual and verbal contributions from such luminaries as Matt Groening, Dr. Seuss, Charles M. Schulz and Gary Larson. Entertaining and informative in equal measure, the topics covered include rejection, procrastination, deadlines, artificial intelligence, professional envy, censorship, and the cartoon community's response to the Charlie Hebdo murders of 2015. Harry will also be drawing live on an A1 flip chart, the images filmed and projected onto screen for everyone to clearly see.

Monday, 21 September 2026

THE CAR IN ART AND THE CAR AS ART

by Julian Richards

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. The romance of speed continued to be a major theme in how cars were depicted in art, but, since the 1950s the car has become art, used as a canvas for artists as celebrated as Peter Blake, Andy Warhol and Damien Hirst. This lecture will showcase the beautiful and the bizarre, celebrating the dynamic, creative, and sometimes unsettling relationship between cars and art.

Monday, 26 October 2026

BOTTOMS UP! A HISTORY OF WINE, ITS RITUALS AND ITS VESSELS

by Andy McConnell

This light-hearted talk examines the history of wine, an elixir that has sustained much of humanity for almost 10,000 years. Essentially little more than fermented grape juice, this extraordinary and contradictory liquid has caused wars and riots, has helped broker peace and more commonly, served as an aphrodisiac. It has been personified in the form of Gods and been the principal catalyst in civilised entertaining and dining rituals. Wine is based on ethanol, a potent alcoholic poison and depressant. Yet, when consumed in moderation, its effects are liberating, euphoric and positively beneficial to our physical health.

Monday, 23 November 2026

BLenheim PALACE - CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT

by Antonia Keaney

Christmas at Blenheim Palace has always been a time of celebration. The 7th Duke and Duchess followed the lead of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in making Christmas a family time and a time to give gifts to those who were in their employ. Those traditions are in many ways still continued to this day. This talk looks at how Christmas has been celebrated over the years and how each November, the Palace and its grounds are transformed into a Christmas feast for the eyes.

WHERE TO FIND US (NEW from February 2026)

THE ARTS SOCIETY BERLIN meet mostly on the last Monday of the month for a minimum of eight lectures a year at their **new venue**, the **Konferenzraum im AlliiertenMuseum, Clayallee 135, 14195 Berlin**. **Free parking** is available along Clayallee. **Public transport:** U3 to Oskar-Helene-Heim, Bus 115 or X83 to AlliiertenMuseum.

All lectures are broadcast **via Zoom** unless otherwise stated. **Lectures begin at 8 pm (on-site and online)**. Doors open from 7.30 pm. Zoom meetings start shortly before 8 pm. Before and after the lectures you are cordially invited for wine and refreshments.

Non-members are always very welcome!