



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
CAVENDISH

URGENT APPEAL

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE TEAM THAT RUNS YOUR ARTS SOCIETY

These include:

Deputy Chair: to assist and deputise for the chair in meetings and to represent the society.

Secretary: to take and distribute Minutes of Team meetings. To book the venue at the Pavilion Arts Centre. To book Number 6 for Speaker's lunch and Team meetings.

Assistant Programme Secretary: to assist the Programme Secretary in searching out and arranging appropriate lectures for two seasons ahead. Attending the Arts Society Directory Day in London once a year.

Study Day Organiser: to discuss with members what sort of events they wish to attend. Arrange venue and speakers for these full or half-day events.

Special Interest Group: any members who would like to get together to arrange areas of special interest. This might be suggesting and helping to arrange visits or discussion groups. It can be whatever you want.

If no new members come forward to help run the society, it will not be able to function and would have to close. With nearly 300 current members enjoying our activities it is unthinkable that we should cease to function. Please get in touch.

chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

NEWSLETTER February 2024



THE ARTS
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Newsletter No 110
February 2024

Chairman's Notes

Dear Members

With the start of the New Year, we have enjoyed a lecture by Patrick Craig on the music of Robert Fayrefax. This included live and recorded choral music from the Tudor period and proved to be a lecture that involved everyone. The next few lectures include the art of Dior, the music of the sixties and the story of the nude. All the details appear on our website, so please do have a look at what is in store. My thanks to Carol Huff for all her hard work in engaging excellent speakers.

Our study day in December, presented by Justine Burgess, was a great success, involving us all in the history and creation of willow work. See the article by Ursula Birkett in this newsletter. A further study day is planned for 8 October on medieval manuscripts. This will be presented by Michelle Brown, who gave us a brilliant and funny presentation of the Luttrell Psalter last year. Carol Huff is also hoping to engage an eminent calligrapher (the artist who designed the King's Royal Cypher) to present us with another study day in early June. Look out in your emails (including SPAM) and on the website for more information.

Thanks to Charles Huff for keeping our accounts in check, the finances of AS Cavendish are reasonably healthy. Charles is keen to get us all renewing our membership by a Direct Debit, which means none of us need worry about whether, or when, we renewed each year. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact either Charles or Lindsay Crowe (membership secretary) for details.

treasurer@artsocavendish.co.uk

membership@artsocavendish.co.uk

Remember to bring your guests to our lectures. Word of Mouth is the surest way to attract new members and guests are encouraged to join the society. The **guest fee this season to £10**. Lindsay Crowe is the person to contact if you wish to bring a guest, or to join the society.

We are going to Glasgow in May, to see the Burrell Collection and the Rennie Macintosh sites. This has been arranged for us by Tailored Travel, a specialist travel company. If you would like to see the sort of group tours they arrange, please go to their website on Tailored Travel Ltd for more information. More importantly, if you have any ideas or would like to assist the Team in arranging any visits (day or overnight) please contact me or Ann George.

chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

visits@artsocavendish.co.uk

The Artsocavendish Team is due to retire at the AGM in May. Though some are willing to continue for another year, the biggest plea to you all is for helpers to assist the Team in running your society. As you know, we are a charity run by volunteers. If there are no new members coming forward to make this viable, the society will not be able to continue. See the urgent appeal above.

If anyone has anything they would like to discuss with me, please contact me on:

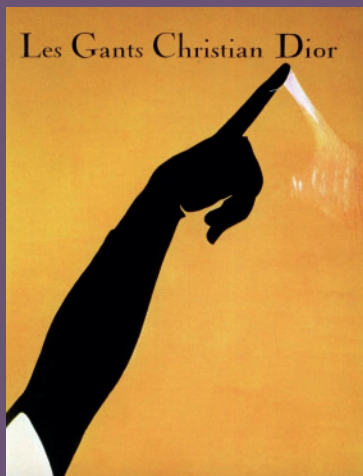
chair@artsocavendish.co.uk

Meanwhile, all best wishes
Sylvia McKenzie

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024

27th February 2024

René Gruau & the Art of Dior



Throughout the history of Dior there is one fashion artist who above all others held carte blanche to illustrate, promote and define the essence of Dior through a flowing striking brushstroke that was to become a trademark of Dior's elegant philosophy. In this fascinating talk, discover

the life and art of René Gruau (1909-2004) and why his imaginative and beautifully crafted art for Dior is considered amongst the most iconic fashion images of the 20th century.

Connie Gray

26th March 2024

She Loves You – (The Music of the Sixties 1960-64)



By 1960 interest in rock 'n' roll had started to fade, its biggest star was moving on and a new generation of teenagers were seeking something different. It came in the form of the Beatles, who broke all the rules and all the records. This is the story of the first five years of the 1960s, one of the most creative and innovative periods in the history of music, featuring all the major artists, important songs and principle musical genres.

Steve King

30th April 2024

Gender and the Body – Kept behind Curtains: The Story of the Nude

The nude is still seen in our modern age, and indeed has been seen for quite some time as the pinnacle of creative artistic perfection, but throughout the course of art history the notion of the perfect body and consequently gender has been constantly reshaped and redefined.

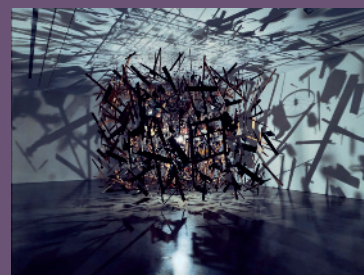
This lecture will look at the continuing fascination with representation of the body in sculpture and in painting across the ages, with sculpture from the 4th century BC, painting from the Renaissance, and through to the modern age with paintings from the Impressionists. We will look at the reasons that lay behind the commissioning of such images. What were their purposes, who were the patrons behind these images, and what, if any, hidden riddles; signs and symbols are hidden within these seemingly enigmatic and flawless images of perfection? We will look at the treatment of nudes by collectors and museums in the 19th century, with the very idea of art itself; finally asking ourselves, 'if this is art', how did it become so and why?

Leslie Primo

21st May 2024

The Explosive World of Cornelia Parker

Contemporary sculptor and installation artist Cornelia Parker is best known for her large-scale installations such as her (literally!) explosive work Cold Dark Matter:



An Exploded View (1991), in which Parker took the archetypal British garden shed, and its contents, and had it blown up by the British Army! The debris is then installed around a single light bulb, creating the dramatic effect of an explosion frozen in time. Intrigued as she is with the idea of 'cartoon deaths', of things being squashed, stretched, dropped from a height or detonated, she transforms everyday objects in order to investigate their nature and value. However, such destruction very often results in work of extraordinary beauty and maps an intriguing and unique thought process.

Rosalind Whyte

This lecture will be followed by the Arts Society AGM



Buxton
International
Festival

By My Hands: A Potter's Apprentice

Saturday 6 July 10am-11am

Pavilion Arts Centre, £12

We are proud to sponsor another art-based event at the **Buxton International Festival**. Last year's Turner Prize winning artist, **Jeremy Deller's** talk was greatly enjoyed by our members so we have high hopes that our choice this year will be equally well received.

Florian Gadsby has devoted his life to pottery, refining his technique towards the point of perfection - and as his skill has grown, so has his social media following, which today numbers in the millions. Based at a studio in North London, he releases three new collections per year, characterized by simple forms and sharp edges, which sell out in a matter of minutes. In *By My Hands*, Florian tells the story of his artistic awakening and of the sheer discipline which has led him to become the cultural sensation he is today. Arguing for the value in dedicating yourself to a craft, Florian weaves anecdotes about particular pots and processes into the narrative of his life and apprenticeship.



VISIT

Our trip to the **Burrell Collection, the Hunterian Museum, Kelvin Grove Museum and the Macintosh House for an Art Lover** on the 7 to 10th May is now fully booked but if you fancy coming by all means let us know by emailing visits@artsocavendish.co.uk as there is always the possibility of spaces becoming available if there are any cancellations.



COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023/2024

Following the success of the £250 Community Grants given from The Arts Society head office in 2021, £50,000 has been set aside from the **Patricia Fay Fund** for them to be re-introduced.

The annual Community Grants are designed to help Societies support arts causes in their local area. The £250 grant may be used for any purpose provided that it is arts or heritage based. The project or cause chosen will help to contribute to the health and well-being of the local community, increase access to the arts and raise the local profile of our Society.

If any of our members know of a local project that may benefit from this grant and would like to discuss it, please contact Jan Hardy at youngarts@artsocavendish.co.uk.

National A-level Art Competition Vote Now Open

The public vote for the A-Level Art Competition is now open. Voting is open to anyone and the deadline for your vote is 29th February 2024.

To see the short listed entries please visit:

theartsociety.org/art-gallery

STUDY DAY

Willow Arts, Justine Burgess of West Wales Willows. Buxton Methodist Hall, Tues 5 December 2023



This was a day of two parts, demonstration and hands on, divided by buffet lunch. It was a very cold day in Buxton, but the Methodist Hall warmed up, till some people even thought it was too warm – perhaps thanks to the many warm layers we had all come in, warned by experience.



Justine presented the history of woven containers, starting with some dated at 10,000 years old, which is an astonishing thought. The survival of these very ancient examples of how people made the containers, needed for food or possessions, from the natural materials around them, depends on the exact physical circumstances of the place where they were left, often found in caves in the Middle East, or hot dry desert places.

The remarkable thing about these very ancient constructions is how delicate and timeless, often almost modern, they seem.

Justine explained the different methods used to build them, most following similar methods, and how the different shapes lent themselves to particular uses. In many cases she had re-created such shapes herself, and found them comfortable and practical in use as we could see from the many examples she had brought to show us. These were here to demonstrate the works, but had they been for sale, her stock might have been severely depleted by the end of the day. They were indeed wonderfully attractive as well as clearly useful.

She also told us about the background enterprise of the holding in West Wales where she and her husband have established a willow growing farm, where they now hold the National Collection of willow, an almost endless variety of different colours and properties, and also sizes. The shoots are harvested in January and February, when the leaves are off and the sap dormant – such a time of year for harvesting is not for sissies!

There were plentiful pictures as well as her sample baskets to show what different things could be made, and how definitely beautiful they often were.

She showed and explained how she had been able to re-create some particular baskets to be seen in old photographs, notably, for



STUDY DAY (CONTINUED)

instance, fisher girls' 'backpack baskets' which enabled the carrying of a great weight of fish, which would then be displayed and sold from a more elegant tray-like basket held in front of the body over one arm, leaving the other hand free to take the money.

She told of a touching rescue and reconstruction of a collapsed family heirloom basket, which is now in St Fagan's folk museum in Wales, but which she then copied, one for the original owner and one for herself, a design which will now not be lost as, surely, many must have been.

Sizes and shapes of crafted baskets will have been made according to the materials available; willow and hazel for instance, can lend themselves to large items up to and including a coracle but North American plains Indians use grass.

After lunch, we had the hands-on session, when we all made a willow star (useful Christmas decoration), everything from quite small to maybe 18 inches across, choosing the colour of the willow wands to use. The results were indeed decorative, especially once highlighted with fairy lights.

We all emerged at the end like children from school, with an example to show for our days' entertainment, very pleased with the interest and pleasure of our rather unusual Arts Society Study Day. **Ursula Birkett**



Membership

As many members will be aware, I have taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Joan Knox. We are delighted that new members have joined recently and our current numbers are approaching pre-Covid levels. We have around 125 members in person at our lectures and around 40 watching the lecture on Zoom. Our study day in December was well-attended and the trip to Glasgow in May is now fully booked.

We currently have capacity for some new members, so please invite any friends who might be interested to come as your guest to any of the lectures. The charge for each guest is £10, and it would be helpful if anyone wishing to bring a guest could email me in advance of the lecture, to the email address below. We do not have facilities to take payments by card, so cash or cheque is appreciated please.

When joining or renewing it is very helpful if members can pay by direct debit and indicate whether we may claim Gift Aid on your subscription. The subscriptions will now be due on the anniversary of your last payment, so not all members will renew at the same time. you should receive a prompt when your payment is due, but for members who pay by direct debit, no action for payment needs to be taken by you.

I am sure we shall be entertained and educated over the coming months.

Lindsay Crowe

members@artsocavendish.co.uk

YOUNG ARTS

For the last few years the Society has offered a schools visit grant to the Art Departments in our local secondary schools for GCSE/A Level trips to an art-related destination.

The grant uses money from our gift aid refund and we hope to encourage often hard-pressed art departments to provide an out-of-school art trip for their students, who may never have had a similar opportunity, and to ensure that the trip can be made inclusive to all the students regardless of their means.

The schools have used the grant to help them visit art galleries, Yorkshire sculpture park, weekend art residencies, and even street art in London.

I wanted to share with you this lovely letter I received from the Head of the Art Dept at Buxton Community School about their recent art trip to Liverpool that our society sponsored.

Jan Hardy, Young Arts

Buxton Community School Art Trip to Liverpool

Hi Jan and everyone at the Arts Society

Just a note to pass on our thanks for making the trip to Liverpool possible, the bursary provided by the Arts Society Cavendish means that students who otherwise couldn't afford to go, or would be in doubt about being able to do it, were all present, so thank you.

On Wednesday 8th November we took 56 students, from Years 11, 12 and 13, to Crosby Beach for a windy yet very enjoyable visit to see Anthony Gormley's statues, 'Another Place'.

A long bus drive finally got us there, for a short stop to see the weather beaten and barnacle ridden statues at low tide. Before long, our somewhat weather beaten students with damp socks and sand-filled pockets, shuffled their way back to the bus and back on the road to Liverpool.

We took the obligatory detour to McDonalds for some much needed warmth, chicken nuggets and Big Macs, before we made our way up to the Walker Art Gallery. On show were the annual John Moore's prize winners, along with the permanent exhibition pieces of Pre-Raphaelite, Renaissance and Romanticism paintings and sculptures.

Our students spent time walking amongst the fabulous artworks in various rooms, in what is, in our humble opinion, is one of the best Art galleries in the UK.

In all, a very well behaved day out for our students and staff! The students' future work will all be informed and greatly influenced by the works that they studied on this trip.

Many thanks again for making it possible.

The students and staff of the Art Department
Buxton Community School.

