



FALMOUTH DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Synopsis of Lectures 2011/12

9th September 2011

Organic Gems – From Amber to Ivory For our first lecture of the season **Maggie Campbell Pedersen FGA, ABIPP** will talk about organic gem materials, i.e. those of plant and animal origin such as amber, pearl, ivory and tortoiseshell which have been used for many centuries as adornment – both personal adornment in the form of jewellery and for decorating our surroundings as carvings and furniture inlay. The first jewellery to be used by mankind was made from organic materials. Necklaces were made of seeds, shells or teeth, depending on what was available. Head-dresses were often made of feathers, shells and horn. Maggie is a Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain and an Associate of the British Institute of Professional Photography.

14th October 2011

Men Behaving Badly : Artists Behaving Badly on and off the Canvas Throughout art men have often been shown to be behaving badly, frequently at the expense of women. From Hogarth's "Rake's Progress" through to other rakes portrayed by Reynolds or featured in Pre-Raphaelite and Victorian narrative paintings, the theme has been extensively explored. The lecture brings the number of "rakes" in art, both on and off the canvas, up to date and into our times with Picasso, Augustus John, Lucian Freud and others. To compensate, there is a short section at the end entitled "Women Strike Back!" **John Iddon** is a lecturer and guide at both Tate Britain and Tate Modern.

11th November 2011

The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial and Treasure This lecture looks at "England's greatest archaeological discovery". Found in a large mound above a creek near Woodbridge in Suffolk, the burial contained one of the greatest ships of its era as well as superb and often unique jewellery. Whether it held the body of King Redwald, a Bretwalda or chief of chiefs who died in 625AD is just one of the mysteries of the site. However it certainly changed our perception of the "Dark Ages" forever. The lecture considers the original and subsequent excavations as well as the spectacular finds from the ship burial itself and from other parts of the site and looks at parallels with the Staffordshire Hoard and the Prittlewell burial. For many years **William Forrester** has lectured on Sutton Hoo at the British Museum. He is also a life member of the Sutton Hoo Society and a National Trust lecturer.

9th December 2011

Fine Art Forgery: Craftsmanship or Conjuring Trick? Forgers have never had it so good, as cash, even now, floods into new, lightly regulated art markets. Careful connoisseurs therefore consider stylistic, technical and archival evidence before making an attribution. But the scientific and documentary evidence can also be faked and market pressures favour the forger! In this lecture, we will meet a cast of colourful characters including Otto Wacker, Hans van Meegeren and Tom Keating. **David Phillips** studied History at Oxford, has worked for Nottingham Castle Museum and from 1982-98 lectured in Museum Studies and Art History at Manchester University.

13th January 2012

Angels, Saints and Virgins – The Extraordinary Art of the Hispanic Andes Angels with muskets slung over their shoulders, images of the Virgin Mary shaped like mountains, saints on horseback, dancing demons and Jesus and his disciples dining on a last supper of guinea pig and corn beer. When the Spanish tried to Christianise the peoples of the South American Andes 500 years ago and teach them how to paint, little did they know that the native people would learn their skills but make religious art distinctively their own. This merger created a colourful, vibrant and entirely original art form that is still being practised

even today. **Dr Geri Parlbj** has lectured at numerous universities and adult learning centres and is Principal Tutor on the Plymouth University/NADFAS Art History Foundation Course.

10th February 2012

The Nymph on the Plinth – Sculpture in Public Places In the urban environment, our lives are enhanced by admiring bronze worthies on pedestals, terracotta reliefs on public buildings, sculpture on war memorials and contemporary public art. This lecture, inspired by the lecturer's research for his book "The Public Sculpture of Cumbria and North Lancashire", aims to show the diversity and impact of such art in the townscape throughout the UK in a variety of media. **Dr David Cross** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Durham University and lectures in Art History to undergraduate and adult classes at universities.

9th March 2012

Goya and the Turbulence of his Times Goya's long life and career spanned the reign of four Spanish monarchs. He was an interior decorator, a skilled portrait painter, a political satirist and an experimental etcher. His ambition, deafness, imagination and deep sympathy for the suffering of the Spanish people during the Peninsula Wars all affected his work. **Gail Turner** is a leading expert on Spain and an internationally acclaimed lecturer on the country's art and culture.

13th April 2012

Love and Loss: The Story of Orpheus and Eurydice in Art and Music The story of how Orpheus, the legendary singer, lost his love Eurydice through a single glance has inspired much great music including Monteverdi's "Orfeo", and visual artists too have responded to this tragic story of love and loss. This lecture will explore the wealth of art and music on the theme of Orpheus with a rich array of paintings and musical examples from Monteverdi, Gluck and Offenbach, even taking in the Can-Can! **Lois Oliver** read English Literature at Cambridge followed by an MA in History of Art at the Courtauld Institute. She has worked on the staff of the Harvard University Art Museums, the V&A and the National Gallery.

11th May 2012

Embroidered with Woodbine and Eglantine: Elizabethan Textile Furnishings Textiles provided the interiors of Elizabethan aristocratic houses with colour, glamour, texture and symbolism. Now only a fraction survives of the huge collection of textiles which once graced and enlivened Elizabethan mansions and palaces. In this lecture we will look at designs, techniques and uses, as well as subject matter and the Elizabethans' fondness for decoding hidden messages and devices. **Dr Gillian White** is a freelance lecturer and has contributed to Continuing Education programmes at Oxford, Warwick and Bristol Universities and is also involved with the MA in the Study of the Country House at Leicester University.

8th June 2012

Gainsborough in Bath – High Society and the Bath Season When Thomas Gainsborough moved to Bath in 1758 it was a bustling cosmopolitan centre experiencing a phenomenal building boom, attracting nobility and wealthy merchants alike and described as "the busiest idle place in the world". Contemporary journals, letters (including Gainsborough's witty correspondence) and caricatures will be used to bring the city, its buildings and its personalities to life. The lecture will explore how and why a young entrepreneurial Gainsborough identified Bath as *the* place from which to build an international reputation. We will focus on his work in Bath and draw comparisons with his contemporaries. **Mary Alexander** has 30 years experience as a lecturer in History of Art and Design, including public lectures in museum galleries and as a summer school tutor for the Open University.

The Committee hope you will enjoy the lectures planned for you in the coming year.