

## The Arts Society North East Essex Lecture Programme for 2019

### **Big Ben**

**17<sup>th</sup> January**      *Lecturer: Tim Redmond*

Big Ben is silent for now, as major conservation work is underway. Tim is a Palace of Westminster guide who offers us an exclusive virtual tour. He will take us up the spiral staircase and behind the iconic clock faces to hear the fascinating story of the world's most famous bell.

### **A Decorative Art: the History of Wallpapers**

**14<sup>th</sup> February**      *Lecturer: Jo Banham*

This lecture explores the history and development of wallpapers from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Examples of beautiful patterns – reflecting changes in tastes, fashions and technology - are taken from both very grand and more ordinary interiors. Jo aims to prove that wallpaper design can truly be considered a decorative art.

### **Sorolla comes back to London**

**21<sup>st</sup> March**      *Lecturer: Gail Turner*

The work of the celebrated painter Joaquín Sorolla (1863-1923) is full of colour and sunlight. Many of his finest paintings are on display in his former family home in Madrid and at the Hispanic Society, New York. In 2019 the National Gallery, London will have a major exhibition dedicated to this delightful 'Spanish impressionist'.

### **Banksy**

**18<sup>th</sup> April (a.m.)**      *Lecturer: Pamela Halford*

His work has been making headlines for over 20 years, and yet he retains his anonymity. His distinctive stencil images, paintings and installations continue to appear. How does he do it?

### **Women War Artists**

**16<sup>th</sup> May**      *Lecturer: Magdalen Evans*

Among those officially commissioned to record scenes of life during the Second World War, many women artists were recruited. In the UK, artists painted the Women's Land Army, women working in factories and for the ATS and serving with the Red Cross. Some of the finest artworks of the twentieth century were produced during the war. Yet despite their historical and artistic value, too few of them are on display.

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### **The Queen of Instruments: the Lute within Old Master paintings**

**20<sup>th</sup> June**      *Lecturer: Adam Busiakiewicz*

This lecture looks at the way painters through the ages have used the lute, and other musical instruments, as devices to express different aspects of the human character. There will be illustrations from Italian renaissance painters and examples from artists as different as Holbein and Jan Steen. We needn't merely imagine the effect of hearing this delicate instrument, since Adam has offered to play his lute for us.

### **Silver Jubilee Lecture at Firstsite, Colchester**

### **Pots and Frocks: the world of Grayson Perry**

**19<sup>th</sup> September**      *Lecturer: Ian Swankie*

This lecture, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Arts Society North East Essex, is subtitled 'From Essex punk potter to superstar national treasure'. Grayson Perry RA is now part of the British art establishment. Guiding us through Perry's sometimes controversial work and thought-provoking exhibitions, Ian will help us understand the creative thinker inside the flamboyant frocks of Perry's feminine alter ego, Claire.

*Please note the change of venue for this special lecture.*

### **Decoding a medieval masterpiece: the Luttrell Psalter**

**17<sup>th</sup> October**      *Lecturer: Michelle Brown*

Michelle has subtitled her lecture: 'A ploughman, an incestuous knight, an eloped heiress and a murderous queen?' The psalter contains an extensive range of images, giving us vivid and often humorous details of everyday life for both nobles and ordinary people. Michelle will bring to life this pictorial 'documentary' of work and play in rural Lincolnshire in the 1320s.

### **Women in Ancient Egyptian Art**

**21<sup>st</sup> November**      *Lecturer: Lucia Gahlin*

In ancient Egyptian society men held important posts as officials, priests and military commanders, with the pharaoh the most powerful figure of all. Yet some of the most stunning images in ancient Egyptian art are of women. This lecture attempts to explain how these beautiful images reflect contemporary attitudes and social norms and what they reveal about the place of women in ancient Egyptian life and its art.

### **Prague: the city of the Winter Queen**

**5<sup>th</sup> December**      *Lecturer: Douglas Skeggs*

Douglas Skeggs is a painter, lecturer and television presenter and author of suspense novels, including 'Phoenix of Prague' (published in 1996). What better guide could we have to this much-loved city of art and culture?

