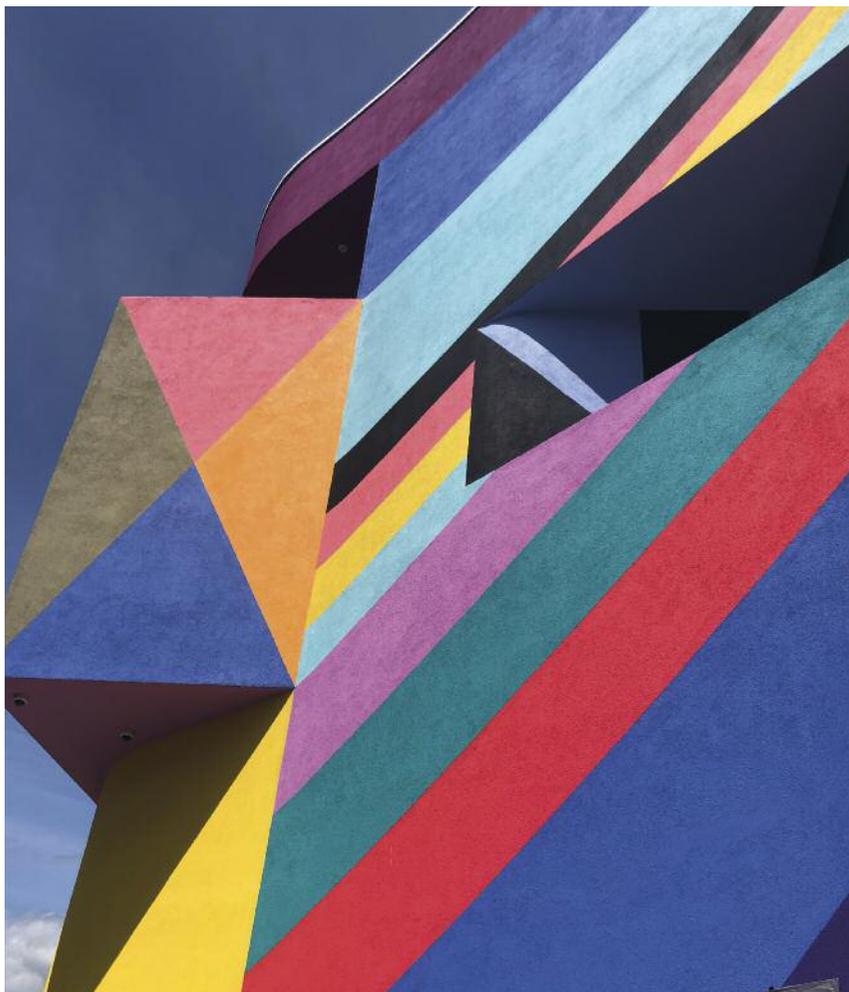


Eastbourne Arts Circle



Newsletter Autumn 2019



www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

EAC Committee - Latest News



Eastbourne Arts Circle commission: *Head* by Helen Turner, is now displayed in the Towner's window for the Summer season.
(See page 3 for further details).

You can now give money to the Eastbourne Arts Circle, just by doing your shopping.

When you shop online at Amazon, please log into:

smile.amazon.co.uk

You will be given a drop down list of Charities, please select *Eastbourne Arts Circle*.

Our charity will then earn 5p for every £10 you spend with Amazon.

In future, Amazon will remind you to log on via the smile version of the web site.

Many thanks,
Sir Philip Anson

TICKET BOOKING FOR EVENTS IN THE TOWNER ART GALLERY

Members: £10 non-members: £12 unless otherwise indicated. Tickets are available by post from Sir Philip Anson, 34 Martello Road, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS.

Please send **one** payment to cover all your purchases payable to "Eastbourne Arts Circle" please include an SAE, or email address for confirmation. A postal Ticket booking form is available on our web site. Tickets also available from the Tourist Information Centre in Cornfield Road. Tickets at the reduced rate for members are ONLY available in advance from Sir Philip, or at the door, and are NOT available from the Council's Tourist Information Centre. **www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk**

EASTBOURNE ARTS CIRCLE Registered charity No 306339

Patron The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

President The Mayor of Eastbourne

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Publicity Helena Birch and Derek Irving

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Committee Members

Roger Burrell and Yvonne Burrell

Cover Picture: Brewers' Towner Commission: Lothar Götz, *Dance Diagonal* (detail), Towner Art Gallery, 2019. Photo by Duncan Adams

Chairman's Letter



Dear Members

What a great summer programme we have had, starting with fashion designer Alexander McQueen and ending with a special interest day showcasing the life and songs of Schubert! With the autumn fast approaching Elizabeth Muir Lewis has arranged yet another brilliant programme which I hope you will support (order form enclosed). There is also our annual Christmas lunch and quiz to look forward to – so keep 14th December free!

What a fabulous tenth anniversary year it has been for the Towner with some great exhibitions and a fantastical paint job by German artist Lothar Götz to the exterior of the gallery which was sponsored by Brewers (they supplied a lot of paint!) Many of our members have commented that it's a pity it has to go back to plain white in May 2020!

I hope that members have had a chance to visit the Towner's brilliant new Ravilious Gallery and Collection Library sponsored by Eastbourne Arts Circle to the tune of £20,000. I think you will agree that it is a wonderful addition to the gallery. Something for us all to be proud of.

Eastbourne Arts Circle have commissioned a new art work from Sussex artist Helen Turner, currently displayed in Towner's gallery window this summer (photo on page 2). Not only have we funded this commission but our own committee member Helena Birch was one of the judges along with Lady Gage and Towner director Joe Hill. Artist Helen Turner, who's based in Newhaven, created *Head*, an artwork that makes use of UV light so that passers-by can experience the sculpture 24 hours a day.

Looking forward to welcoming you to our events, and later in the year for our Christmas lunch. Thank you for your continued support

Helen

The committee would like to extend their heartfelt condolences to Ruth Isaacs on the loss of her husband Ralph Isaacs.

Alexander McQueen: Art, Fashion and Darkness

What a great title for a lecture and it certainly brought in the EAC members to create a full house. This was a brilliant talk about a truly original British fashion designer.

Dr Alexandra Loske started by setting the scene...the Brit pop era of the 90s, New Labour, changes in culture and specifically changes taking place in the Art World with the rise of young British artists. Into this scene came working-class and gay McQueen with an East End of London background and few school qualifications. From this beginning Alexandra traced his climb through the fashion world, starting with learning tailoring skills in Savile Row...skills which stayed with him throughout his career and formed the backbone of his controversial designs.

“You’ve got to learn the rules before you break them”.

McQueen went on to break every rule, his fashion shows were performances, each one becoming bolder and braver as were his designs. He worked with the greats - Givenchy, Gucci, Treacy, Komi Tatsuno. To illustrate Alexandra showed us his magical designs through clips from ambitious fashion events. Dramatic and theatrical and each telling a story often using the elements...rings of fire, a flooded stage...always pushing the boundaries, creating a spectacle.

But there was also darkness often proclaimed in the titles of his shows - Highland Rape, Jack the Ripper, Widows of Culloden – some titles referencing his Scottish heritage. The fashion reflected these dark moods, ripped garments, taxidermy used to accessorise... shells, feathers and flowers often used to disturb.



Dr Alexandra Loske wearing an Alexander McQueen dress and jacket and holding a book on the designer



Members enjoying last year's lunch.

Date for your Diary

**Our Annual Christmas
Lunch and Quiz will be held on
Saturday 14th December
at the Lansdowne Hotel.**
Menu and booking form enclosed.

Lecture Review

Picasso Through the Eyes of Lee Miller

Review by Helena Birch

Antony Penrose, as the son of Roland Penrose and Lee Miller, gave a real insight into the lives of his parents and their relationship with Picasso. It was fascinating to hear of Roland and Lee as part of the artistic community in France, their first meeting, their connections with the Surrealists and of course with Picasso, a close friend.

Antony's talk was illustrated by many photographs from his personal collection showing intimate scenes of family and friends on picnics, at the beach and of course as a young boy with Picasso. He also spoke at length of his mother Lee Miller and her varied life, starting as a Vogue model and progressing to a war photographer.

Antony's talk was very personal and based on memories, stories and images from his own past which made our experience as an audience particularly vivid and meaningful.



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 **Perspective**
MANAGING WEALTH

Sir Edward Burne-Jones: Philanderer or National Treasure?

with Peter Bryden

Friday 13 September
2.30pm

Towner, College Road
Eastbourne

BURNE JONES REAPPRAISED

One of the most influential British artists of the late nineteenth century, Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898) was born in Birmingham and is associated with the later phase of the Pre-Raphaelite movement. He met William Morris whilst a student at Oxford and worked closely with him throughout his life. In this lecture we will investigate Burne-Jones' somewhat colourful life story, his work and his influences. A hugely talented artist in paint, stained glass, tapestry and printing, interest in his work is currently soaring, especially following the recent high-profile exhibition of his work at Tate Britain.

Dr Peter Bryden has a degree in Medicine but is currently focused on the study of Victorian Art. He has an MA in History of Art from Birkbeck College, University of London and is currently a PhD candidate at Exeter University. Peter has lectured and run courses on Victorian Art at Dillington House, Higham Hall, The Pre-Raphaelite Society and The London Art History Society.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)



Edward Burne-Jones,
The Beguiling of Merlin,
Oil on Canvas, 186 x 111cm,
©Lady Lever Art Gallery,
Port Sunlight, Merseyside

Van Eyck and the Pre-Raphaelites - an unexpected connection with Emma Rose Barber

Friday 11 October
2.30pm

Towner, College Road
Eastbourne

The Arnolfini Portrait (Jan van Eyck, active 1422-1441), dated to 1434 (the National Gallery) is one of the most iconic and legendary paintings in the history of Western art. *The Awakening Conscience* (William Holman Hunt, 1827-1910), dated to 1853 (Tate Britain) captures the moralising mood and status of women in Victorian Britain. Yet, despite being well-known paintings, they are rarely discussed together. While both works depict a man and a woman in a lovingly painted interior, there might be other connections between them.

The Pre-Raphaelites took inspiration from 15th century Italian painting, but they can show more allegiance to Netherlandish art. Through an in-depth study of these two paintings the lecture will address Hunt's possible 'borrowing' of ideas from van Eyck; as well as the painting of 'domestic' rooms in the history of art; where narrative, attention to painting details and an air of ambiguity draw us in.

Emma Rose Barber is a tutor, lecturer and art historian.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)



Jan van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Portrait*, oil on canvas, 82 x 59.5cm, ©National Gallery, London



William Holman Hunt, *The Awakening of Conscience*, 1853, 75.4 x 55.2cm, ©Tate Britain

Il Trittico

by Giacomo Puccini

Friday 25 October
From 2pm - 4.30pm

Towner, College Road
Eastbourne



Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Il Trittico are three short one act operas by Giacomo Puccini intended to be played together although this rarely if ever happens! Each opera is approximately one hour long, so EAC will be playing two of them. We have chosen *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* (the third opera: *Il Tabarro* will not be played.)

Suor Angelica. This production, by Richard Jones, is set in a children's hospital run by nuns. The main character is sister Angelica, sung by Ermoneta Jano. It is the story of a young aristocratic girl who has had a child out of wedlock. Her family has shunned her and condemned her to the hospital, and never to see her child again. One day her aristocratic and frightening aunt (sung by Anna Larson) comes to see her to inform her that her child has died. This poignant and moving opera, with the tragic figure of Angelica at the centre, has been compared to *Madame Butterfly* for its emotional intensity.

A complete contrast is ***Gianni Schicchi***. This Royal Opera production is also by Richard Jones, updated from the 13th century to the era of "*La Dolce Vita*". It is a riotous and comical opera, with the central character Gianni Schicchi (sung by Lucio Gallo.) The plot is hilarious, with a fine ensemble of relatives who are about to be fooled out of the inheritance they had plotted for. The only quiet moment comes with the aria everyone knows *O mio babbino caro*.

We commence our afternoon at 2pm and not 2.30pm, to give you all a chance to enjoy this wonderful music without being hurried. **Robert Ascott will be on hand to answer questions.**

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

Art Lectures at Towner



J. McNeven, *The Transept from the Grand Entrance, Souvenir of the Great Exhibition*, 1851, coloured lithograph, 30 x 46 cm (Victoria and Albert Museum)

The Great Exhibition with Dr Prasannajit de Silva Friday 8 November 2.30pm Towner, College Road, Eastbourne

The Great Exhibition of 1851 (sometimes known as the Crystal Palace due to Paxton's cast iron and plate glass structure) took place in Hyde Park from 1st May to 15th October 1851. The brain child of Prince Albert its format, scale, profits and visitor numbers was unprecedented and proved to be the first in a series of World Fairs showcasing the very best of commerce and industry.

The Great Exhibition is widely regarded as a grand statement of Victorian technological prowess, but it actually took place against a background of widespread concern about the state of industrial design in Britain. So, what were the real aims of those behind the Exhibition? Why was it such a huge success at the time? And what was its lasting impact?

Dr Prasannajit de Silva is an art historian, university lecturer and accredited Arts Society speaker.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)



Nativity Mosaic, 11th century, Monastery of Hosios Loukas, Central Greece

The Nativity in Art

with Dr Helen Rufus-Ward

Friday 13 December 2.30pm

Towner, College Road, Eastbourne

The Nativity, with the Adoration of the Magi and the Shepherds, is one of the most popular subjects in Christian art. Starting with the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, this lecture will explore the surprising idiosyncrasies of this much contested site, including a rift between the Catholics and the Greek Orthodox clergy over the marker of the actual birth in the church's grotto that might have been a cause of the Crimea War! This will be followed by an examination of a number of key paintings from the medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods in order to see how the Nativity imagery has developed and changed over the centuries. Early depictions favoured the portrayal of a 'real' birth whilst later imagery represented a totally 'miraculous' birth!

Dr Helen Rufus-Ward is a published art historian, university lecturer and accredited speaker for the Arts Society

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)



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