

Lomond and Argyll Decorative and Fine Arts Society

2016-17 Lecture Programme

All That Glitters - Gold Craftsmanship in Prehistoric Europe

Since the earliest use of gold around 6500 years ago on the Bulgarian coast, it has been desired and shaped by generations of craftsmen. Their skills can now only be deciphered through the objects they have made. They reveal not only unparalleled expertise and flair but crucial insights for understanding the societies involved.

September 13th 2016



Ben Roberts

The Punch and Judy Show (A Subversive Symbol from Commedia Dell'Arte to the Present Day)

Mr Punch is the most famous puppet of all time. His comic irreverence gave 'Punch' magazine its title. Appearing in England in 1662, Punch is descended from the Italian Clown Pulcinella of the 15th century Commedia Dell'Arte tradition. Even today he uses slapstick to dispense with oppressive authority, be it politicians or political correctness, while proclaiming his notorious refrain 'That's the way to do it!'

October 11th 2016



Bertie Pearce

Gian Lorenzo Bernini 1598-1680 : the portrayer and the portrayed

The great sculptor and architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini enjoyed a remarkably long and successful career. The lecture discusses his meteoric rise to fame, his strong personality and his success in the competitive world of Roman art and architecture, examining both his architectural work and fascinating portraits created by him and of him.

November 8th 2016



Patricia Andrew

The Secret Art of the Passport

This lecture traces passports back three and a half centuries to demonstrate the development from a handwritten paper to the technically complex documents of today, and how art and artisanship have played an important and sometimes secret part in the desire to fox the forger. You will see how forgers have responded to the challenge and you will never look at your passport in the same light again.

December 6th 2016



Martin Lloyd

Scots Artists, Antiquarians and Art Dealers in 18th Century Rome

By the second half of the 18th century, half a dozen Scotsmen, because they were highly educated, had all but cornered the market as guides to British tourists in Rome, Naples and Florence. They were scholars and intellectuals, archaeologists and art dealers, moneychangers and, occasionally successful artists. The lecture tells their story and that of their countrymen on whom Italy left a lasting impression.

January 10th 2017



Brendan Cassidy

The Story of the Restoration of Barholm Castle and others beside

In 1999 the lecturer and her husband bought Barholm Castle, a 16th century Tower House and began the long process of restoring it from a ruined shell surrounded by thistles and hogweed to a comfortable home and large garden. Together with the story of its restoration we will hear of the renaissance of Scottish Castles and Towers over the past 60 years and of those who brought them back to life.

February 14th 2017



Janet Brennan

Klimt - A Kiss for the World

The anxieties of Vienna in the final years before the Great War found expression in the writings of Freud, the music of Mahler and the paintings of Klimt. Shimmering portraits flecked with gold, hypnotic landscapes of vibrant brushstrokes, dreams of decadence and death reveal a society in search of salvation. The lecture traces the course of this brief, often dark but always dazzling inventive period of art.

March 14th 2017



Douglas Skeggs

Vivaldi in Venice

Antonio Vivaldi - the last great Venetian composer - was born on a day in 1678 when a tremendous earthquake shook the lagoon city. Perhaps this was symbolic, since Vivaldi's compositions in turn shook the world of music. Against the backdrop of 18th century Venice and with a musical performance, the lecturer explores the amazing world of Vivaldi's music, as intrinsically Venetian as the canvasses of Canaletto.

April 25th 2017



Peter Medhurst

Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes

This lecture tells the story of the Ballets Russes company which Diaghilev established in Paris in 1909. Building on the achievements of Tchaikovsky and Petipa, he brought about a revolution in classical dance, which was dazzling to the eye. The lecturer will discuss how artists of the calibre of Bakst, Picasso and Matisse worked with composers Stravinsky, Debussy and Ravel, and choreographers Fokine and Balanchine and dancers Pavlova, Kasavina and Nijinsky to create ballet staging of genius.

May 9th 2017



Rosamund Bartlett

Gustave Caillebotte, Impressionist, Gardener and Sailor

Gustave Caillebotte (1848-94) is one of the least known, but most important, members of the rebellious Impressionists, his continued support ensured their survival as a group. Through his own paintings, he created a distinctive and enlightening vision of contemporary Paris, but was also a passionate gardener, a philatelist and a keen designer and sailor of yachts. The lecture tells the story of this man of many parts.

June 13th 2017



Lizzie Darbyshire