

## Art Appreciation - themes and choices for meeting January - July 2023

Below is the list of the artists and paintings and a sculpture chosen for our first meeting this year on **24th January**. As we had to cancel our Christmas meeting we were especially pleased to get together again.

The theme for this meeting was **'Family and Friends'**.

Each of us had a fairly detailed account of these artists and their particular painting. There was a good selection from artists, some of whom we had not known before. The most unlikely choice was 'Maman' by Louise Bourgeois, which is a sculpture of a giant spider. Once Maxine had explained the background to this, we understood why Louise Bourgeois had created this and given it the name 'Maman'.

Artists	Paintings
Sir Edward Coley Burne Jones	Georgiana Burne Jones with Philip & Margaret Family Reunion 1867
Frederic Bazille	Family Reunion 1867
Frederick George Cotman	One of the Family
Louis Bourgeois	Maman
Sir William Rothenstein	Mother and Child
Martin Cambriglia	Navigate
Marc Chagall	Fisherman's Family

The subject for the meeting on **28th February** is **'View through a Window'**.

Some of the artists we have had previous meetings where their paintings have been chosen, these include David Hockney, Marc Chagall and Edward Hopper. Other are new such as Anna Blunden, C.R.W. Nevinson, and particularly Timothy Easton who is a resident at his home Bedfield Hall in Suffolk.

Artists	Paintings
René Magritte	The Human Condition
David Hockney	The Queen's Window - Westminster Abbey
Anna Blunden	For One Short Hour
C.R.W. Nevinson	From a Venetian Window
Marc Chagall	Paris through the Window
Timothy Easton	Autumn View
Edward Hopper	Night Windows

The theme for the **28th March** Meeting was **'Own Choice'**.

Everybody chose a picture or painting that has a particular association for them. A couple were those owned by group members and Gravesend was where another member grew up.

Artists	Paintings
Roland Frederick Hilder	Landscape - owned by Anne
David Plested	Timber House in Felsted - owned by Moira
Paul Cezanne	Mont St Victoire
Winslow Homer	Four Fisherwomen on the Beach
Saul Leiter	The Red Umbrella
James Tissot	The Three Crows Inn, Gravesend
Jan Steen	The Village Alchemist

On **25th April** we looked for paintings that portrayed a **'Back View'** of someone or something. All but one of the paintings had people or a person included. The exception was the view of Earth from the moon landing in 1969. We all agreed that the Francis Bacon painting is one that you would not like to have on your wall at home.

Artists	Paintings
Jean-François Millet	The Gleaners
Emanuel de With	Interior with Women at the Virginal
Francis Bacon	Three Studies of the Male Back
NASA photo	Looking Back at Earth, 1969
Diego Rivera	The Flower Vendor
Edgar Degas	The Dance Lesson
Pablo Picasso	Blue Nude

As part of the celebrations this May we will be looking at scenes that focus on **Kings, Queens and Coronations**. The meeting was on **Tuesday 23rd May**.

As well as conversations about King Charles III coronation there was a wide range of paintings to discuss, including a couple relating to Elizabeth II's coronation and a couple of earlier works.

Artists	Paintings
Tomb Painting	Tutankhamun's Funeral Procession
Laurits Regner Tuxen	Coronation of Edward VII
Painters and Gilt specialist	The Royal Coronation Coach used by Elizabeth II
Pietro Annigoni	Portrait of Elizabeth II
L S Lowry	Coronation Procession
Ingres	Joan of Arc at the Coronation of Charles VII

Ethiopian Fresco	The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
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The Theme for **20th June meeting** was **Canals and Canal Boats**.

There were a wide variety of paintings chosen, four located in Britain, two of the Grand Canal in Venice, and one of the opening of the Suez Canal. The normal choice of only one painting was extended as Monet had painted the same view of the Grand Canal, but with entirely different lighting according to the time of day. There were also two paintings of the opening of the Suez Canal. The first one was a small painting with rough strokes to position the outline of the attendants. The second one was much larger, in bold colours with all the dignitaries who were there.

Artists	Paintings
Claude Monet	Le Grand Canal
Giovanni Antonio Caneletto	Entrance to the Grand Canal, Venice
Adrian Pingstone	Main Flight at Caen Hill Lock
Andy Scott	The Kelpies
John Northcote Nash	Disused Canal at Wormington
Ford Madox Brown	The Opening of the Bridgewater Canal
Mahmoud Said	Opening of the Suez Canal

The Theme for **25th July** was **Fashion**

The Red Dress Project was really interesting. A 14-year, award winning global, collaborative embroidery project from 2009 to 2023. It was conceived by British artist Kirstie Macleod and provided an artistic platform for women around the world. This project allows them to tell their personal stories through embroidery. Piet Mondrain's painting reminded us of the days when we wore dresses like Twiggy, bought in the Biba shop in London in the 60s and 70s. The Lobster Telephone by Salvador Dali was the most unusual choice for the meeting.

Artists	Paintings
Salvador Dali	Lobster Telephone 1938
Piet Mondrain	Yellow Red Black Blue and Grey
Marcus Gheeraerts The Younger	Queen Elizabeth 1, The Rainbow Portrait
Hyacinthe Rigaud	Louis XIV, The Sun King
Kirstie McLeod	The Red Dress Project
Various Artists	A Selection of Fashion Images