

## Art Appreciation themes and choices from September to December 2023

### A visit to the Gainsborough House Museum in Sudbury on 26th September.

The new rooms at the Gainsborough House Museum were excellent. There was a guide in the new room to the left of the reception area. The new silk wallpaper meant that descriptions of the paintings couldn't be hung next to the paintings. The volunteer guide told us about the paintings. The new room opposite has different exhibitions that change every few weeks. We didn't find the paintings by a local Norfolk artist very pleasing, they were difficult to interpret.

We did visit the original section of the museum, still interesting but seemed quite sombre and dark in comparison. On the ground floor was a representation of Gainsborough's studio as it might have been with an original paints and objects that he used. Up the curved staircase the rooms seemed rather dull and rather poorly lit. One of the top rooms featured samples from the Humphries Weaving Company that is one of the largest suppliers of silk locally, and supplied the silk for the new Gainsborough Museum rooms. It was certainly worth a visit.

The subject for the meeting on **17th October** was '**Battles, War and Military**'. This was not a theme that we thought would be something we wanted to explore but quite a few of the paintings had more of an anti-war background. An interesting selection.

<b>Artists</b>	<b>Paintings</b>
Rubens	Minerva Protects Pax from Mars
Paul Jones	The Meeting Place - Statue at St Pancras Station
Randolph Schwabe	The Women's Land Army & German Prisoners
Auguste Rodin	The Burgers of Calais
Alfred Leete	Your Country Needs You - Poster
Elizabeth Butler	The Remnants of an Army
Martin Cambriglia	Navigate
Paul Nash	Totes Meer' - Dead Sea

The theme of the meeting on **28th November** was '**The Dressing Table**'. It was surprisingly difficult to find suitable paintings. Some of those chosen were an alternative interpretation and some had a bit of artistic licence. You never know how different the paintings will be before the meeting.

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Paintings</b>
Mark Gertler	Still Life with Self Portrait
Edouard Manet	Nana
Johan Joseph Zoffany	Queen Charlotte with her Two Eldest Sons
Charles Allan Gilbert	All is Vanity
Jan Haworth	Mae West Dressing Table
Berthe Morrisot	Women at her Toilette

The theme for the Christmas meeting on **12th December** was '**Moon, Stars, and Astronomy**'.

We all appreciated this choice of subject that wasn't directly connected with Christmas.

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Paintings</b>
Aert Van Der Neer	Moonlit River with Figures and Tower
Jan Matejo	Conversation with God
Bayeux Tapestry	Halley's Comet
Jennifer Taylor	Sycamore Gap
Joan Miro	The Sun, The Moon and One Star
Hiroshige	The Moon over the Waterfall

Our first meeting next year will be on **Tuesday 23rd January 2024** and the theme is **Masters and Servants**.