

Art History

Links

RECENT ART HISTORY TOPICS

'Who were the Celts? Artisans or Artists?': Janet Erskine

Janet skillfully and extremely knowledgeably traced the history of the Celts and Celtic art from 700 BC to the present.

And what an arc of time we covered! from the 700 BC Halstatt periods' artefacts preserved in salt mines, to the Swiss La Tene iron age culture with its swirly decorated metal onto the 1st century BC Norfolk Snettisham discoveries (wow, that solid gold 'great torc' neck ring!) .. then through to the medieval, Christian influenced period (Celtic crosses and the wonderful Book of Kells) and finally the 19th century Celtic revival and the 'celtomaniac' influence on Art Nouveau and associated modernism revivals (eg the Glasgow style Rennie Mackintosh).



What a sweep of Celtic art history ... 'artisans' or 'artists'?... they indeed seemed to embrace both over time!



At our **March** meeting the scheduled topic 'Art in Photography' was unavoidably cancelled at short notice. As a substitute Rob revived one of the key 'devices' we used during our memorable **lockdown Zoom meetings in 2020/1**, i.e.....

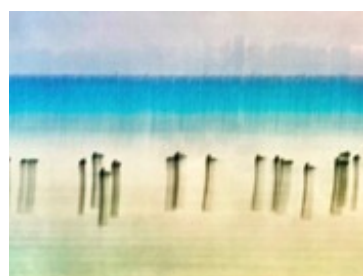
..... 'SNIPP'ARTS'!



Rob selected a number of wide ranging (short and long) Art 'extracts' or themes which he had come across in recent visits to art galleries and shared them with group:

These included, the wonderful, evocative '**Ennui**' by Sickert (Ashmolean); the sheer breadth of immediate post-impressionism (National Gallery 2023: the heart-rending example being '**Hardship**' by Isdre Nonell); Winslow Homer's 'force of nature' against a more 'delicate' American art context at the time of Cassat, Singer Sargent and Whistler (National Gallery 2022: eg: '**The Life Line**')

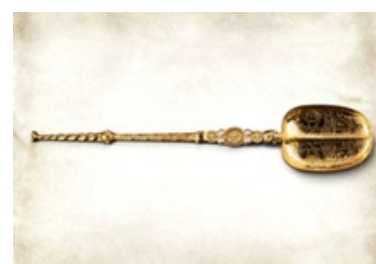
The 1960's social reactionary art from MOMA New York (eg, 'Axell-eration' by Evelyne Axell) and, as a homage to Brian's intended presentation, examples of '**Art in Photography**' from the **2024 Wildlife Photographer of the Year** (eg. '**Last Breath of Autumn**', the magic of fungus, and the impressionistic 'A Palette of Ducks'



NOT TO MENTION: ... the confusion of El Greco being part of the Spanish Golden Age, despite being a Greek ('the clue is in the name' Bob Lambert commented!); the deliberately mystifying messages from Picasso to his art critics during his 4 months stay in Fontainbleu in 1921 (classical women alongside cubist-like still life!) and Ramon Casas's knowingly appealing '**Decadent Young Woman**', from the Ashmolean's Victorian Colour exhibition earlier this year.

At our April meeting our guest speaker Lizzy Rowe from Oxford gave us a wonderful presentation on the **Royal Art Collection of Charles III**. And what a spectrum of rich 'art' history Lizzy shared with us

... from **silverware** (12th century Coronation spoon to anoint the incoming King or Queen)



....to **masterly paintings** (eg Charles I from 3 angles, boasting his uneven hair length; Bruegel The Elder's 'Massacre of the Innocents' and all its 'cover-up' overpainting

....Artemisia Gentileschi's wonderful self portrait; the charming family portrait of Victoria and Albert with their family by Winterhalter and

...one of John Piper's famous Windsor Castle scenes, (as always in inclement weather!) ...

... to **delicate porcelain** in the form of Faberge type eggs, much adored by Queen Mary



How blessed is our Group?!

[Return to Home Page](#)

[Return to AH home page](#)

[Upcoming meetings & events](#)

[Connections](#)

[Archives of previous topics](#)



More Group Pages			
Archaeology & Geology	Art History	ART4ALL	Bridge Group
Canasta Group	Cards	Churches	Computer Group
Cribbage	Family History	French Beginners	Gardening
Handicrafts 2 groups	Hempton Field NH Activities	History*	Kurling
Leisurely Walking	Movement to music	Music Appreciation Grp3*	Music Appreciation Grp6*
Natural History Group	Nordic Walking	Play reading	Reading (Book) Group
Rummikub	Singles/Dining*	Strollers	Sunday Silver Screen
Walks Long	Walks Medium	Walks Short	Writing for Fun