

ART APPRECIATION

The Art Appreciation has had a few events this Autumn firstly heading to Beetham and the Heron Theatre in October to see a film on Edward Hopper released to accompany his 2022 retrospective at the Whitney Art Museum in New York. Having met for lunch, we followed the film with afternoon tea and a discussion on the man and his painting and his perception of New York at the time of his paintings. November passed us by so we had to catch up in December with two events.

A small group met up at Blackwell Arts & Craft House and we were able to have an excellent guided talk about the Holt family, Bailie Scott, and some of the Arts and Crafts designers whose pieces are on show in the house. Our visit was punctuated with a trip to the cafe where we had our first Art App Xmas lunch. We then went back to the house to see the last of three exhibitions that Blackwell has held this year on the theme of social protest.

Paul Scott's work in this exhibition entitled Cumbrian Blue(s) was on display throughout the house in addition to a short film and a room devoted to his work. He uses the medium of ceramics to make statements about issues of both global and regional importance. Two of his Cumbrian themes : Sellafield and Foot and Mouth focus on the impact of these events on the landscape. He takes Willow patterned pottery and repurposes it through applying his own transfers onto existing plates or creating new pearlware and new digital transfers or reworking old pieces through kintsugi : the Japanese way of repairing ceramics.

A couple of days later and with the chilly weather not really improving a small intrepid group set off for York Art Gallery via Lindale and courtesy of a Travellers Choices scheduled trip to York and Harrogate. We were extremely lucky to avoid the icy roads and pavements. However, a biting east wind greeted us on arrival. The coach dropped us a short walk away from the Minster and the Art Gallery and Bootham Bar.

Our ticket gave us entry to the current exhibition "Sin". Although this was a small exhibition we were able to get up close to some early Italian Renaissance works in Egg Tempura and later Renaissance and Northern European works of oil on oak. The details of the costumes, carpets and the use of light on metals, glass and reflective surfaces was impressive on close inspection. We were treated to a beautiful Rembrandt, Lucas Cranach the Elder and other Italian & Dutch pieces on loan from the National Gallery. In addition, we also saw the permanent collection which had some Laura Knight, Grimshaw, Warhol and local artist Etty works. The Art Gallery also houses the Centre of Ceramic Art which includes over 5,500 pieces from important collections such as Anthony Shaw, W A Ismay, Henry Rothschild & Eric Milner White. These collections tell the story of studio ceramics from the early 20th century to today. Amongst these pieces were many from Lucie Rie and Hans Coper who we saw in Abbott Hall back in 2019 in the Art of the Refugee. A good day was had by all and we felt enriched for our day out.

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