

# The Arts Society Oxford



## TASO Newsletter May 2020

Dear Members

It is not quite May, however the majority of topics I should like to cover in this email relate mainly to May.

Firstly I do hope you and your families and friends are keeping well as we move into a new and unfamiliar lifestyle.

### A Future Programme

We cannot predict with certainty what the next stage might be, but it seems increasingly unlikely we shall be meeting up for lectures in our familiar Magdalen venue perhaps for the rest of this calendar year. Being optimistic, it may be that small gatherings of friends will be able to view together online in a more sociable way!

The trustees have been giving considerable thought as to how we might continue to deliver an interesting and stimulating arts programmes into your own homes. We are also liaising closely with TAS House, supporting them in looking at new methods of delivery, and we are undertaking independent research on alternatives with some of our lecturers. Wyvern Area Chairs have also 'met' via Zoom to adopt a collective approach.

Should the extraordinary happen and we return to meetings as usual in the near future, TASO has its lecture programme in place for the whole of next year, starting with our AGM in September!

### TASO Membership Renewal

Trustees have also given considerable thought to the timetable for membership renewal. We have decided to keep to our annual cycle which is as follows:

1. The invitation to renew will come out from our Membership Secretary on **Friday 1 May**.
2. We ask those who wish to renew to complete this by **1 July**. This can be done by bank transfer or cheque to the Membership Secretary.
3. **From July onwards** places will be offered to those on our waiting list.
4. The membership subscription remains at **£45**.

TASO is a charity, and as with many charities at present, we rely totally on the support of our members. We shall endeavour to bring you value for money by continuing with arts lectures in some format, and introducing other familiar activities, such as local small group visits, as restrictions become relaxed. We are also committed to continuing our financial support for local organisations, many of whom are being very inventive and creative in their work with vulnerable people in this situation.

We do hope you are all considering renewal, and very much appreciate your support. One final point, we will be asking those who have not already done so to complete a Gift Aid form as part of the renewal process.

## **Online screenings in the coming month**

### **1. TASO film of the month**

We are continuing our arrangement with Seventh Art Productions, as many of you enjoyed the film on Young Picasso. In May (from 'lecture day' on Wednesday 13 May) we shall be streaming free of charge to members only **The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism**.

Taking its lead from French artists like Renoir and Monet, the American impressionist movement followed its own path, which over a forty-year period reveals as much about America as a nation as it does about its art as a creative power-house. It's a story closely tied to a love of gardens and a desire to preserve nature in a rapidly urbanizing nation. Travelling to studios, gardens and iconic locations throughout the United States, the film features the sell-out exhibition The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887–1920.

**More information on the film and the link for viewing will be sent out just prior to 13 May.** I am very much looking forward to this as it is an area I know nothing about!

### **2. The Arts Society**

TAS have launched a series of short films (15 mins) on their website: <https://www.connected.theartsociety.org/talks-lectures> which can also be watched on YouTube. The current film by historian Sarah Dunant is on Venice. A new film is posted every 2 weeks.

### **3. Other screenings**

The **BBC** has set up a website 'Culture in Quarantine' highlighting a range of arts topics including theatre, reading material, exhibitions.

Specifically, on BBC4 this coming week, there are visits to current exhibitions we all wish we could visit! **On Tuesday (28 April) it will feature Young Rembrandt at the Ashmolean with Simon Schama.**

Two Arts Society lecturers have offerings to access.

**Sian Walters** posts a weekly lecture on Facebook: Art History in Focus, Picture of the week. These then continue to be available, and you do not need a Facebook account.

**Mary Alexander** (was due to deliver our 'New York New York! Study Day at the end of May, now re-booked for January 2021) presents a written lecture on her societies' website each week under Our Society/Documents. <http://www.theartsocietyglavenvalley.org.uk/AboutUs/Documents.aspx>

A TASO member has kindly forwarded details of a **Christies conversation** on **'Interior spaces and Impressionism'**. [https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-9Qr\\_xnydm/](https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-9Qr_xnydm/)

Click on the link at the bottom of the picture – you don't have to have an Instagram account.

Finally **the listings of online cultural activities** in last month's Newsletter are still posted on the front page of our website.

I wish you all continuing good health and enjoyment of this cornucopia of entertainment in isolation.

Best wishes from all the trustees  
Sarah Whiteley  
Chair, The Arts Society Oxford