

Master's Programme 2020



The Art Workers' Guild

Thursday 9 January Master's Night

Alan Powers

William Morris and me

The new Master was told about William Morris at the age of 12, and became fascinated by his designs, his life and his circle. He speculates on how this impulse might have brought him to his present position.

Thursday 23 January

Emma Sewell

Wallace Sewell - colour, composition and collaboration

In 1992, Harriet Wallace-Jones and Emma Sewell launched Wallace Sewell, at Chelsea Craft Fair, with no real plan, except a passion for creating extraordinary woven textiles, designed by hand, but for industrial manufacture. Emma relates the journey of this small but diverse studio.

Thursday 6 February

PM Prue Cooper

Heathcote Williams: poet, playwright and countercultural activist

By turns idealistic, very funny, scholarly, and angry (sometimes all at once), Heathcote Williams used every creative means – words, images, performance – to challenge injustice and the hypocrisies of both right and left, and argue for a kinder, fairer world.

Thursday 20 February

Anthony Powers

Music and the English landscape

How English composers, from Elgar to the present, have been inspired by English landscapes; whether music can evoke landscape, and how twentieth century 'pastoralist' composers relate to traditions of landscape painting from Constable to Hockney.

Thursday 5 March

Martin Treu

Signs, streets and storefronts in the USA

Spectacular displays of electric signage and neon are famous in Times Square and Las Vegas, but storefronts and cinemas, especially in the Main Streets of smaller towns, display the visual exuberance of a hundred-year old folk art.

Thursday 19 March

Bro. Rolfe Kentish and Bro. Hugh Cullum

Inside the British Library

The British Library, by Colin St John Wilson and the late Bro. M J Long, has divided opinion since opening in 1997. Our speakers, joined by others from the project team, will explain the development of the design and construction.

Thursday 2 April

Annette Carruthers, Mary Greensted and Barley Roscoe

Ernest Gimson: Arts & Crafts designer and architect

Described by Pevsner as 'the greatest of the English artist-craftsmen', Ernest Gimson was a central, but elusive, figure in his time. The authors of the recent definitive book on his life and work will reveal his stature and contemporary relevance.

Thursday 16 April

Will Hunter

Radical models for architectural learning at the London School of Architecture

With architecture schools becoming remote from the real issues of the profession and costing more for students, the London School of Architecture was founded in 2015 to combine job-based learning with project-based London sites. Will Hunter, the founder, tells the story so far.

Thursday 7 May

Diana Springall

What do you mean by embroidery?

Diana Springall, embroider, writer, educator and collector, asks why crafts are regarded as lower in artistic importance than fine art, in spite of the fact that most practitioners have been trained in some aspect of fine or applied art.

Thursday 21 May

Bro. Stephen Proctor

Where do houses live?

Initially inspired by the Townscape theories of Gordon Cullen, Proctor and Matthews Architects have been exploring a contextual approach to contemporary architecture and placemaking for over 30 years, avoiding the pitfalls of suburbia with characterful new urban, suburban and rural neighbourhoods.

Thursday 4 June

Bro. Rory Young

The texture of living and my work

My work and my leisure, commissions and house are inseparable: a nursery of invention inspired by the art of building and the architectural crafts in the field of stone and plaster; learning to be what I am and to be that perfectly.

Thursday 18 June

Ayla Lepine

Stone, silk, and neon: contemporary art in British cathedrals

Recently, artists have become more attentive to theology and Christian themes, while the Church begins to work innovatively with artists. Showing recent work by Ian Hamilton Finlay, Stephen Cox, and Arabella Dorman, this talk illuminates intersections of art, religion, and sacrament.

Thursday 2 July

Bro. Matthew Eve

C. Walter Hodges: a life illustrating history

Guild member C. Walter Hodges (1909-2004) was a writer and illustrator famed for books on Elizabethan theatre, historical novels, illustrations for the Radio Times and classic children's books. Matthew Eve brings a personal perspective based on conversations and correspondence.

Thursday 16 July

Bro. Celia Ward

From a privet hedge in the Highlands to Moldovan mascherata

My journey from portrait drawings and West End exhibitions to the collaborative textile project East London Textile Arts via, a Transylvanian village, Moldavian winter carnival and aid projects in Bolivia.

Thursday 1 October

Sarah Turner

Enchanting the modern: art, craft and Theosophy

The Theosophical Art Circle was founded in London in 1907 by Clifford Bax with the purpose to 'unify the arts'. This talk will look at how artists were drawn to Theosophy and other esoteric movements in Britain and across the globe in the early twentieth century.

Thursday 15 October

Bro. Rosemary Hill

Suddenly it's now: Paul Spooner and the School of Rough Automata

The late Sue Jackson's Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, a museum and amusement arcade in Covent Garden Market, opened in 1985. The exhibits were moving figures, variously large, small, comical and sinister. Thus was launched one of the most exciting and thought-provoking of the new craft movements of the decade.

Thursday 29 October

Hon. Bro. Peter Cormack

Charles J. Connick's Adventures in Light and Color

After Louis Comfort Tiffany's lush pictorialism, 'Modern Gothic' architects in the USA re-imagined the medieval tradition in stained glass. Boston artist Charles J. Connick (1875-1945), profoundly influenced by English Arts & Crafts, developed a thrilling and distinctively American art form.

Thursday 12 November

Bro. Richard Kindersley

Three national military memorials

After working on several recent national military memorials, including the new British D-Day Landing Memorial in France, Richard Kindersley finds that 'any sense of the triumphalism of war evaporated as we worked amongst these remembered names.'

Thursday 26 November

Wendy Hitchmough

Omega dress

At the Omega Workshops, Vanessa Bell and other artists moved beyond the 'pin-cushion pretty' Arts and Crafts preoccupation with rational and artistic dress to create Cubist cloaks and brilliantly patterned buttonholes, crafted from painted and stiffened muslin.

Thursday 10 December Annual General Meeting (members only)