

Master's Programme 2021



The Art Workers' Guild

Thursday 14 January

Master's Night

Art is Unity

Not since 1889 has a Master of the Guild been required to open the year's proceedings twice in succession. On this occasion, the Guild's motto will be examined for its meaning in the past, the future and at all times.

Thursday 28 January

Caitlin Condell and Emily Orr

Underground Modernist: Edward McKnight Kauffer

Through posters, book jackets, carpets, theatrical costumes and more, American artist. McKnight Kauffer (AWG 1924-27) integrated avant-garde style into modern life. The speakers from the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, edited a recent major book on his work.

Thursday 11 February

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 25 February

Diana Springall

What do you mean by embroidery?

Diana Springall, embroiderer, 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 11 March

Hannah Coulson and members of the AWG Outreach Committee

An invitation to engage

We invite you to participate in the first of our open Outreach evenings – a place to hear from the Outreach Committee about projects in progress and share questions, stories, challenges and optimisms for the Guild's role in the world today.

Thursday 25 March

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 April

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 6 May

Kate Jordan and Barley Roscoe

John Dando Sedding and Ernest Gimson: Legacy and Vision

Sedding, the second Master of the AWG, was an outstanding but still insufficiently recognized architect, compared to Gimson who joined his practice from 1886-8.

Descendants of each show their respective travels from sketchbooks and showcase their designs for embroidery.

Thursday 20 May

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 3 June

Rachel Dickinson

The Guild of St George: Ruskin's vision of a society rooted in Art and Craft

In 1871 John Ruskin founded the Guild of St George, an educational charity for art, craft and the rural economy. Still rooted in Ruskinian ideals, it has changed significantly over 150 years. The Guild of St George's fifteenth Master reflects on its history and discusses its future.

Thursday 17 June

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 1 July

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.

SUMMER BREAK

Thursday 30 September

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 14 October

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 28 October

Bill Dunster

Affordable homes in the age of climate emergency

A week before the opening of the COP-26 Climate conference, architect, product designer and urbanist, Bill Dunster, will show how during 2020, he prototyped small low-cost, zero-carbon, climate-neutral prefabricated homes with minimal energy bills that can be built in rural areas.

Thursday 11 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 25 November

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 reimaged the medieval tradition in stained glass. Charles J. Connick (1875-1945), profoundly influenced by English Arts & Crafts, developed a thrilling and distinctively American art form.

Thursday 9 December

Annual General Meeting (members only)