



Accademia Italiana / Artstur

Newsletter

May 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

Four and a half months into 2017 we arrive with another Newsletter to report and anticipate events, talks and Tours.

We will do some of these Tours less frequently since the short 3 hours Tours we are doing in Rome, Paris and London are expanding at an amazing pace and give Jenny, myself and Anthony hardly time to breathe. We are doing them of course with our 60 guides in the three venues, and while we do directly some of the London ones, even piloting them from the distance takes a lot of time and energy. The fun is to create and present new Tours; we have just launched “The Impressionists in Montmartre”, a Tour full of fun and effervescence which recaptures the fun, joy and wonder of the artists as they reflected in their art the impetus and sensations of Life at that time.

In a more contemporary tone trying to bridge the gap to modern art, on June 27 we will have the artist and historian William Stok, who will give us a lecture on how the Influence of Science and the Art Process have led us from Delacroix to Turner, the Impressionists, Surrealism and Cubism (with the input of Einstein and Freud) to Modern Art.” It will be a fascinating encounter where we will see 19 C. Art still based on the language of realistic images to the new alphabet of signs and symbols of modern art. In a reception before and after we will participate to the debate.

As you know Music, specially Italian Opera, has become an Art form which we love to present. The Ognisko Management has created some lovely areas with very good facilities to listen to Music. The room on the second floor has now a very large TV where we can project the Opera DVDS we are proposing, as well as Power Point or Keynote presentations. Because of the kitchen facilities next door this allows us to hold small receptions and dinners. If you have any ideas for nice events, do let us know and we will see how they can be organised.

Our first Opera evening has been on Wednesday 17 May when we showed the famous TOSCA performed a few years ago by Placido Domingo and Caterina Malfitano, conducted by Zubin Metha in all the original locations in Rome. It was a real success with the public.

Our next Opera event will be on Sunday July 9, 2017 . 6 pm - A Film of the Opera La Rondine by Puccini - a rarely performed but beautiful young work by the composer, sung by Angela Georghiu and Roberto D’Alagna in the New York’s Metropolitan Opera performance of 2009.

Rosa Maria Letts

Lectures and Events: Summer 2017

Tuesday 20 June CALABRIA - A PRESENTATION OF CALABRIA

6:30 pm for 7 pm



The film “God Blessed Calabria” part of the autumn festival held yearly in this sun kissed region of Italy, and soon to be showing all over the country, will be shown in the Accademia Italiana. Presented by Dott. Antonietta Santacroce and its director “Erminio Pedrocco”

A reception will follow.

Where: 1st floor, Accademia Italiana 55
Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PN

Cost: FREE, but apply early because of limited seats.

Tuesday 27 June

6:30 pm for 7 pm



From Classicism to Modernism: Art Past and Present.

Lecture by William STOK

In a more contemporary tone trying to bridge the gap to modern art, on Tuesday June 27 we will have the artist and historian William Stok who will give us a lecture on how the Influence of Science and the Art Process have led us from Delacroix, Turner, the Impressionists, Surrealism and Cubism (with the input of Einstein and Freud) to Modern Art." It will be a fascinating encounter where we will see 19 C. Art still based on the language of realistic images to the new language of signs and symbols of contemporary art.

Where: 2nd floor, 55 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PN
Cost: £20 Members and Friends; £25 Guests.

Sunday 9 July

3:30 pm for 4 pm

5:30 pm for 6 pm



"Two Romanian Superstars in CONCERT"

Andrei has been supported by us for four years and each year he gives us a concert to raise funds for his piano lessons. This assistance has enabled him to develop his piano playing to a very high standard sufficient that in a year or so he will have the ability to enter the BBC Young Musicians of the Year. The Concert this year is played all by himself and includes pieces composed by him. Come and support him in achieving his goals.

Puccini, Opera: La Rondine - Live From The Met [2010]. This rarely performed opera in which Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna star, will be shown in this 2009 New York Metropolitan Edition. Directed by Nicholas Joel and conducted by Marco Armiliato.

Where: 1st floor - Ball Room,
55 Exhibition Road, London
SW7 2PN

Cost:

Andrei's Concert: £20; Children under 15 - free;

Opera in film with a glass of prosecco £20

New Tours 2018

We have changed our policy for tours. We will offer one tour, for 2018 it is "In the Footsteps of Caravaggio" for which we already have a lot of interest so that we can confidently go ahead.

For the others we will put forward proposals and await your feedback.

1. Venice with Adrian Mourby who will take a different itinerary to that in 2017 and will include two of the Islands. This Tour is discussed here below in Memories of Past Tours
2. We will present again "Visions of Rome" a 3-night tour in Rome which will include many of the new developments in excavation in the archeological era of Rome and present latest Museums or recent discoveries. We were informed recently by ENIT of the magnificent show in the ARA PACIS "L'ARA COM'ERA" (The Ara as it used to be) which recreates life in Rome under Augustus, through videos and music. It finishes in October 30, we may do it just before. And of course the unique presentation now showing, only at the week ends, in Nero's Palace the Domus House. Equally important will be the visit to the Monastery/former Palace of Santi Quattro Coronati (only opened for two days a month for 9 months of the year) and, of course Santa Maria Antiqua in Caesar's Forum.

3. CALABRIA : The Jewel of the Ionian Coast. April 2018

In the words of the Italian writer Guido Piovene in his 'Viaggio in Italia', Calabria is certainly the strangest of Italian regions. Among the vast extent of its mountains one almost thinks of not being in the South of Italy but in the Alps or Scandinavia. Starting from the delightful capital of the Region 'Reggio Calabria' home to the Bronzes of Riace in the Archeological Museum we travel from the Tyrrhenian to the Ionian coast, through the most startling landscape where the mountainous peaks plunge to the violet blue sea. This extensive coast includes places like Riace, where the bronzes miraculously appeared only 50 years ago, Monasterace, Stilo home to the 17C philosopher Campanella, Locri, Soverato, Squillace, Crotona and finally Capo Colonna. On this enchanted coast under its protective mountainous creeks we will visit their secrets from the archeological parks to the Byzantinian monasteries, Swabian Castles, Palaces and Churches and the fun-loving towns on the coast.

Declared the most beautiful region of Italy, let us go and find out!

4. 8-14 May 2018 "In the Footsteps of Caravaggio" - MALTA, Valletta and SICILY, Syracuse and Messina : the Greatest Painter by far to have worked in Malta, our visit to the main Cathedral where are his two masterpieces - The Decollation of the Baptist and his Saint Jerome - together with the works of Mattia Preti in the same Church, will be an amazing experience. But other Museums and Palaces, plus the island's natural beauty will fill our next few days making this an essential Tour - unique to the eye and to the spirit. Its extension into Sicily and the towns visited by Caravaggio in Flight from the Knights of Malta after circumstances we will discuss, will take us closer to his tragic end, but also the unforgettable style of his last dramatic years. (See details and description)



5. **Art & Opera tours:** We are constantly receiving proposals of operas in the most famous opera houses in Italy. These proposals are slimmed down from those we have previously offered. Based on 2- or 3-nights in 4 star hotel with one or two operas costing in a region of £700 to £800.

If you are interested in these tours please let us know and we will forward proposals as they come up.

Memories of Past Tours

During the first 3 months of 2017, two Tours done with Members of The ACCADEMIA ITALIANA/ARTSTUR and new people who later became Members, were the Venice Tour last January and the Rome Tour this March. They both proved very special.

Venice Tour

The Venice Tour in late January was a real joy, for the weather and for the visits we did. Adrian Mourby the author, journalist and a specialist on Venice, who accompanied the Tour, gave us a good description of parts of Venice as it was lived during the 18 and 19 C. for shorter or longer periods by great English / American writers.

More art visits were done in the afternoon guided by Rosa Maria Letts and we enjoyed some Venetian Palaces where we had lunch i.e. with the Director of the beautiful 17 C. Palazzo Querini, now a Museum. This is an outstanding Museum of 17 and 18C. Venetian Life and Art. Doctor Elisabetta Dal Carlo, one of their main curators accompanied us on our visit. Most of our friends found it the most fascinating visit of the whole



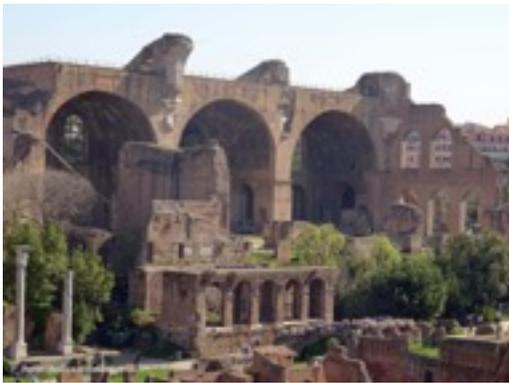
Tour.

In Palazzo Barbarigo on the Grand canal we listened to “Opera a Palazzo “- a beautiful version of the Traviata, very well sung; and we were invited to visit Palazzo Barbaro - closed to the public - also on the Grand Canal.

The visit to the Accademia, Venice’s Art Gallery, presented again so many art Treasures through a new display, that it was once again a great treat reserving also some great surprises. Among the works by Giovanni Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto etc were the first works by Sebastiano del Piombo - the best pupil of Giorgione’s later the best friend and colleague of Michelangelo. -Among them were the four organ shutters painted for the Church of St Bartholomew by Sebastiano. Two of these works are temporarily in the National Gallery for the exhibition on Sebastiano del Piombo. I do hope that at least the participants of our Venice Tour will go and see them in London. They will leave on June 24 and are SUPERB.

Adrian Mourby is eager to repeat this Tour which he will conduct and I hope that we will soon announce its new date, either this autumn or next spring.

Rome Tour



The other Tour which has been fascinating and which we will repeat yearly in a shorter version is “Visions of Rome’. We just returned from it two weeks ago leaving its strong sun and warm spring air - that came almost too early as some romans told us - but which made our staying so pleasant.

Starting from the Capitol Hill and its Museums which we visited, we could look at the Forum of Caesar under our feet anticipating the



following day’s visit. This included all the Foro Romano and its now reopened (only a few months ago after 20 years of restoration) “Santa Maria Antiqua”, the 6th C. Church built in the Imperial Palace probably one of the main reasons for us to revisit Rome. To all of us and even our superb guide Luca Farris, a big surprise was to come: Santa Maria Antiqua had been closed to the public three days before, without any announcement. A small board said CLOSED.

We returned into the sunshine walking towards the enormous remains of the Basilica a little sad and disappointed, when walking among the excavated ruins we found some of the roman walls embraced by clusters of Wisteria. This was like an alive Postcard, j made up by ruins, sun and place.

The Forum was full of Tourists, many students who were climbing on those very Roman Walls at least 2000 years old, sitting and picnicking over them, playing cards and listening to music . At this point my anger did not have limits and spent my next half hour telling them off, forbidding to step on our sacred walls and forcing them to come down. “We have kept them alive for at least 2000 years, we do not need you to destroy them due to your lack of respect and ignorance. “ I must say that some of the guards - too few alas to control the crowd of 30.000 people which enter the Forum every day and treat them disrespectfully - came to thank me and said we need more people like you to stand up and defend us. Sad reflection to the work of our authorities.

Anyway, due to great efforts from the part of our many friends in Rome, we were allowed two days later to go for a private visit to Santa Maria Antiqua with a few other experts. The sun was still there and the wisteria



and the crowds. (Please see Santa Maria and other details of our terrific Tour through the Photographs of Suzanne Burge - our Member and amazing recorder of the special and best moments of our Tours.)

The Tour went on with splendid evening dinners out in the small streets of Rome by the Pantheon or The Portico di Ottavia, among Roman remains and Renaissance buildings. Our Rome was still there; she will resist the Barbarian Hordes still trying to invade her now; let us hope that through the effort of their teachers, their schools and universities and all of us they will learn to respect the remains of our past, beautifully romantic now, but glorious and vibrating of life then!

Looking forward to meet you again for the various events , talks and Tours, we particularly look forward to your comments, opinions and contributions to our various encounters

Rosa Maria and Anthony Letts