

DIARY OF EVENTS: FEBRUARY - JULY 2019

Dear Sponsors Members and Friends,

This year, like in 2018, we are enjoying in London an array of exciting exhibitions and other art events. Life is more and more hectic but I feel that entering one of the many Museums or Galleries where these beautiful displays are taking place, we will experience many moments of enhancement and joy which we all deserve. That is why, together with the lectures we will present, I am suggesting some visits which we can enjoy together and which will be the inspiration for some of our lectures.

The first event of the year around which exhibitions will abound all over Europe is the commemoration of Leonardo Da Vinci's 500 years from his death. That is why we started off on January 22 with the magnificent lecture by Ross King who gave us a completely new insight on the final years of Leonardo in Amboise, France. There, where he arrived late in 1515 invited by the King of France Francois Premier to become the King's Painter, our genius worked in new and different ways creating some of his best drawings. Not paintings, **having brought with him on arrival La Gioconda (Monna Lisa); the Virgin and Child with Sainte Anne and St. John the Baptist;** but he was to do commissioned drawings and some of his famous machines. He also designed **Castles and planned a whole town Romorantin for his great new Patron Francois 1, over an old Roman Citadel.** The King, probably Leonardo's greatest patron - as said even by Martin Kemp - understood how to allow him to fulfil his creative architectural and engineering experience. Many of you attended Ross's lecture experiencing at first hand these great and novel revelations. The first event of the year around which exhibitions will abound all over Europe is the commemoration of Leonardo Da Vinci's 500 years from his death.



Leonardo Da Vinci, Natural Disaster, 1517 - 18



The Helmet 1939-40 bronze. Henry Moore Foundation

Next we will be visiting an exciting exhibition of **HENRY MOORE: The Helmet Heads**

6 March - 23 June 2019 at the **Wallace Collection** where the artist spent many moments looking at their famous Armour collection.

Tuesday 12 March at 2pm

Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads Visit

This will be conducted by a curator of the museum who will also show us these galleries before entering the exhibition of Moore's works.

We can meet for lunch before at the delightful Restaurant in the Museum. I will be there from 12.30

Thursday 28 March at 6.30 for 7 pm

**Lecture on The Artistic Drawings
created to use on the Euro Coins by various European artists
by Prof Alessandro Scafi**

Accademia Italiana/Artstur, at Ognisko, 55 Exhibition Road, SW7

On Wednesday March 27, Prof Alessandro Scafi of the Warburg Institute - a fantastic lecturer who many of you have heard on the subjects he has used in his many publications on Medieval and Renaissance Art, is going to discuss on a very apt subject:

The EURO. When the Commission planned to introduce the Euro they commissioned European artists to develop symbols for the Euro coins to symbolise European unity and values. Prof Scafi, who wrote a book on the subject, now out of print, tells me that some of those drawings were beautiful examples of contemporary design but needless to say none of them were adopted in favour of consensus choices of very poor quality indeed. Prof Scafi will discuss them together with the messages which they were intended to convey.



Euro Coin, 1999 Circul 2002



Leonardo Da Vinci, Head of Leda, 1503 -07

During the Month of May another great Leonardo Exhibition will be presented in London at the Queen's Gallery: **Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing (4 May - 13 October 2019) Exhibition of over 200 drawings.**

Friday 17 May 2019 at 2pm

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY, Buckingham Palace, London

**Visit to Leonardo's Exhibition,
accompanied by Rosa Maria Letts**

The Exhibition will give the audience the opportunity to see the work of this extraordinary artist, through the largest selection from the Queen's collection. The 200 drawings will make it one of the most extensive exhibitions of Leonardo's work.

Having started with Leonardo, the painter of the Last Supper frescoed in the refectory of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, we continue with a global last supper, the one experienced by all the inhabitants of Pompeii on the last day of their truncated life under the ashes of Vesuvius.

Wednesday 22 May 2019 at 6.30 for 7 pm

LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII

Lecture by Dr Paul Roberts, Sackler Senior Curator of all antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Accademia Italiana/Artstur, at Ognisko, 55 Exhibition Road, SW7

"For the Romans, life meant getting together to eat and drink, in a pub or at a banquet. Last supper in Pompeii celebrates the Roman love affair with food and drink - a journey, from fields and vineyards to markets and shops, from tables to toilets and the tomb.

We see the influence of the Greeks and mysterious Etruscans, and visit fertile Vesuvius to see how Romans got their food and drink (and a Roman vineyard buried in AD79!). Into the bustling city, past hawkers, shops and bars we enter the house, visit the shrine of the gods (with a chicken head!) and the gorgeous garden with its flowers and fountains. We recline in the dining room, with exotic food and fine wine, and surrounded by Greek-style luxury - fine silver, mosaics and frescoes.



*Fresco showing a rabbit nibbling at some fresh figs. The Romans often showed food in their paintings of still life.
Naples Museum, MANN 8630*

Dare we see the kitchen? No fridge, no running water, no hygiene - and there is the Roman Britain with objects from sheepy Chedworth and metropolitan London with the first brewer, the first cooper and even the first pub landlord! Finally we see the monuments of the dead feasting into the afterlife. Seize the day - Carpe diem!!"

Paul Robert



Black and white mosaic of a skeleton holding two askoi (wine jugs).

*The message is clear....Carpe Diem - seize the day!!
Naples Museum, MANN 9978*

A visit to Paul Roberts' exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum "Last Supper in Pompeii" will be arranged early in September accompanied by him. DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Hoping to spend precious time together in the next few months, I leave you wishing - even if under the snow now - an amazing spring of hope and success.

Costs: All events cost £12.50 or one lecture subscription for all current Sponsors, Members and Friends plus the cost of tickets for Museum's visits. The cost is £20 for non Members plus the cost of tickets for Museum visits.

To book contact **Accademia Italiana / Artstur** Tel: 07720812183 - email: artstur@gmail.com

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55 Exhibition Road, London SW72PN - Mob: 0772 0812 183 - artstur@gmail.com - www.artstur.com