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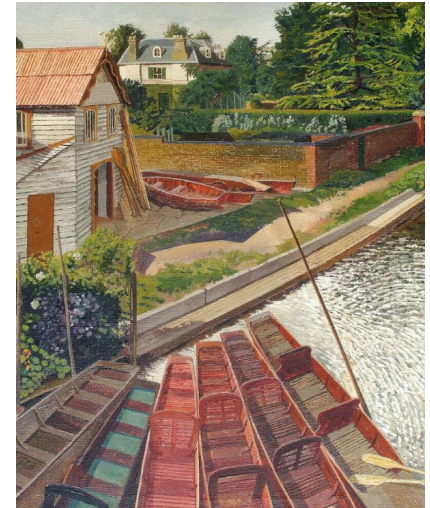
EVENTS

Summer Event

Date TBC

Summer Art Exhibition

1st - 3rd August



“The View from Cookham Bridge” by Stanley Spencer
(located in the Stanley Spencer Gallery)
Image courtesy of Amy Lim

2025 PROGRAMME

Lectures are generally held in the Guildhall Sandwich on the first Monday of each month at 7pm (except bank holidays and the July and August break). Refreshments are served from 6.30pm. Guests are always welcome to attend, £7 payable on the night.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

6th January

Adam Busiakiewicz – Women Making Music in Art

Using paintings by the likes of Sofonisba Anguissola, Artemisia Gentileschi, Vermeer, Watteau, Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Lawrence, this talk will chart the various meanings, symbolism and iconography associated with women musicians.

3rd February

Rachel Church – Courage calls to Courage everywhere

Rachel explores how jewels have played their part in politics and history. Brooches, badges, chains and rings can all be used to send a message about your politics and beliefs. Through wearing various jewels people can show their views openly and identify others who share their beliefs.

3rd March

Alice White – Ways to look at Painting: an artist's perspective

Alice provides a painter's perspective on famous artworks from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Rembrandt and Turner are revealed as artistic risk-takers whose new combinations of glazes, surfaces, pigments and processes re-defined the language of painting.

7th April

Marie-Anne Mancio – The Only Blonde in the World: Pauline Boty

British Pop artist Pauline Boty is the subject of monographs, a biography and a documentary film (Summer 2024). Known in her lifetime as a painter, contemporary of Peter Blake, Hockney, Derek Boshier, and others, she starred in Ken Russell's film 'Pop Goes The Easel' which profiled four emerging contemporary artists.

12th May

James Vaux – Viking Gods and Valkyries: The Art of Norse Mythology

When we walk into any gallery, why do we see so many depictions of the Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, but not Viking ones? This lecture explores how Norse myths and legends have been portrayed in the decorative and fine arts over more than 1,300 years and reveals quite how few depictions we have, and how varied they can be.

2nd June

Ashley Gray – The Post-War Textile Visionaries of Modern Art: A Yorkshire Textile Renaissance.

An epic tale of two extraordinary figures from the same valley in Yorkshire who were destined to change the world of fashion and design for all time. A story that takes us from the mills of Yorkshire to the Cornwall coast. From Welwyn Garden City to Westminster. Art, design, textiles, fashion, politics, publishing, philosophy, and the very genesis of modern art in Britain.

July (date to be confirmed)

SUMMER EVENT

1st - 3rd August

SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

St Mary's Arts Centre

1st September

Amy Lin – A Village in Heaven: Stanley Spencer's Cookham

Few artists are as rooted in a place as Stanley Spencer and his beloved home village of Cookham. This Thames-side village was not only his birthplace, his home for most of his life, and even his nickname, but it dominated his imagination and was the inspiration and location for many of his greatest paintings.

6th October

Denise Heywood – Legend and Lustre: Jim Thompson and Thai Silk

Jim Thompson arrived in Bangkok as a US army officer in 1945, fell in love with it and stayed. Captivated by the beauty of Thai silk, an ancient craft in decline, he resuscitated it and made it famous, creating costumes for films and embellishing his house, which today is a museum.

3rd November

Timothy Walker – Paradise Lost and Found: 400 Years of Garden Design in Oxfordshire

The history of English garden design can be told in different ways, but rarely can it be told "through the lens" of one garden. The Oxford Botanic Garden was founded at the beginning of the 17th century. Through the next 400 years successive Horti Praefecti (head gardeners) changed the art of gardening, and very occasionally the science of botany.

1st December

Sandy Burnett – Christmas in Bach's Leipzig

How Bach brings the Christmas story alive in his Christmas Oratorio, written for Lutheran congregations in 1730's Leipzig. An overview of Bach's life and achievement precedes a close look at this magnificent work. Sandy's close relationship with Bach's music stretches back for decades; between 1997 and 2010 he directed a complete cycle of Bach's sacred cantatas.

Disclaimer: Due to circumstances outside our control alterations to the programme are possible.