

December 2024

NEWSLETTER

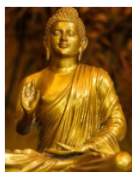
The Arts Society of West Suffolk



**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
and Happy New Year!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 10am
Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell
“How to Understand Buddhist Art”**

MATTHEW WILSON



Buddhism originated in India in the fifth century BC and subsequently became the dominant religion in such far-flung nations as China, Japan, Cambodia and the Philippines. Buddhist art was created to address its immense popularity, and it soon developed its own array of regional styles and symbols. This lecture will introduce its audience to the basics of Buddhist art by looking at its main ‘mudras’ (poses), symbols, subjects, materials and functions. It will tackle early abstract representations of the Buddha, through Greek-inspired figurative sculptures, its main regional styles and the key symbols that were devised to represent the Buddha’s teaching.

Secret symbols, Nazi-fighting, cultural love affairs, the ‘nude’, snowmen, and artistic espionage are among the diverse interests of art historian Matthew Wilson. Matthew studied History of Art at the Courtauld Institute and is an author, lecturer, educator and freelance journalist.



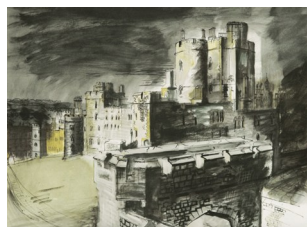
“In Spite of Bombs and Broken Windows”

Queen Elizabeth and the Arts In Wartime by Dr Susan Owens



The idea of the Queen Mother as an art collector was an unexpected aspect of her life to most of us. In a fascinating lecture Susan Owens, as Assistant Curator of the Print Room at Windsor Castle, was in a unique position to assess her choices and the motivation behind them.

Queen Elizabeth started collecting in earnest in 1938 and, with the help of Sir Kenneth Clarke, the then director of the National Gallery, developed an interest in contemporary British art. From an enigmatic portrait of George Bernard Shaw by Augustus John to works by Duncan Grant and William Nicholson she showed an adventurous taste not always shared by the family. Princess Margaret’s view of Paul Nash’s Portrait of the Vernal Equinox was “Mummy’s gone mad! “She usually bought direct from the artist, but perhaps her most important and controversial commission was the 26 watercolours of Windsor Castle by John Piper. Although these are a remarkable record of the castle, the dark colours and sombre skies which reflected the mood of the time did not please everyone. However King Charles had them reframed and they hang in Clarence House, a worthy memory of his beloved grandmother’s taste and passion.



**Special Interest Day-18th February
2025**

Mark Hill studies ‘Hot Stuff - The Birth of Studio Glass’ and “Mid 20c Modern Italian Ceramics”. A light lunch is provided after which we will wrap up the day with a spontaneous talk about the glass and ceramics you have brought.

Tickets at £35 have been selling fast so do let us know if you have not yet expressed an interest and wish to do so.

Whilst you may pay by card at the January meeting, we would prefer a payment by BACS and will save the queue card payment on arrival!

Website: www.theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk

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