

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 1:30pm** will be

Hilary Guise

who will talk to us about:

Flowers in the Art of the Great Masters



Hilary lectures in the main museums in London for American universities and has toured widely in the USA and lectured for the Smithsonian Institution. She has also worked for the Art Fund, taught courses for Cambridge University, has been a guest speaker on cruises. Trained as a painter at Central St Martin's, she exhibits abroad, most recently in Berlin and France. Lives in London and in Provence.

Flowers comfort with their inexhaustible variety and beauty. From ancient times, empresses and kings decorated their palaces with Secret Gardens painted on their walls. The Egyptians painted gardens 'in the afterlife' with lily ponds and fish. In the Middle-Ages the concept of the Secret Garden was transformed into a person, a much-revered woman. She, who is The Virgin, is the Mystic rose. The sacred geometry of the Gothic rose windows describes her character. The troubadours sang of courtly love in the Walled Garden around an over-flowing fountain.

In the golden age of the 17th century Italian fruit baskets take on an allegorical rôle in the hands of Caravaggio, while the Dutch masters immortalize many species of flowers, all buzzing with insects. The Victorians adopted the language of flowers and Manet uses flowers to tell about the women of Paris. Van Gogh pours out his heart in his dying Sunflowers and is later treated with the poisonous foxglove. Monet's purest joy was his garden at Giverny where he could drift away on the surface of his water lily pond.



Want to find out more? For further information visit the Society's website

at www.theartssocietywindsor.org.uk, or email us at info@theartssocietywindsor.org.uk We meet live on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN N.B. Please consult our website re each lecture which we will update regularly.