

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 1:30pm**
will be

Leslie Primo

who will talk to us about:

The Cult of the South Pacific – From Cook to Gauguin



Art historian Leslie Primo is an author, broadcaster, and graduate of Birkbeck, University College, with an MA in Renaissance studies. He lectured at the National Gallery, London for 18 years, and has appeared on the BBC speaking on Michelangelo and presenting on JMW Turner. He contributed to the *Oxford Companion Guide to Black British History*, and has a forthcoming Thames & Hudson book called, *The Foreigners that Invented British Art*. He currently teaches art history at Imperial College, and lectures for the Royal Academy, London.

This lecture will look at the enduring Western obsession with, and invention of the so called 'exotic' or 'noble savage' starting with the first discovery of the Island of Tahiti in 1767 and charting the impact, through painted images of the island and their people, of the English and European influence in this part of the world through the eyes of not only Captain Cook and those who came before him, but also through the eyes of the artists that accompanied these pioneering voyages and into the 19th and early 20th century with the images of Gauguin. And to this end the lecture will look at how romanticised depictions of the island and its peoples by artists such as: William Hodges (1744-1797), Benjamin West (1738-1820), John Webber (1751- 1793), and John Cleveley (c.1712-1777), and indeed those of Paul Gauguin (1848 – 1903), not only bolstered these notions in the minds of Europeans, but helped to perpetuate and invent the Western notion of the exotic and the myth of paradise.

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

at www.theartsocietywindsor.org.uk, or email us at info@theartsocietywindsor.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.