

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 1:30pm**
will be

Raymond Warburton

who will talk to us about:

Art and the Circus: Painting the Ups and Downs



Ray has had a life-long love of art. From 2014 to 2017, he studied art history at the Open University, and then at the University of Buckingham, from where he has an MA in the History of Art. Since 2011, he has been a guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, where he leads public tours of all the permanent displays and also undertakes exhibition tours. In his twenties, Ray studied social sciences at the London School of Economics and the School of Oriental and African Studies, from where he was awarded a BSc and a MSc respectively. These degrees led to a career in health and social care, with art being an evening and weekend passion. They also gave Ray a grounding in evidence-based approaches, which he now uses to ensure his art lectures are well-researched and well-informed. Ray is an experienced public speaker who, over many years, has given presentations and lectures on a range of health, art and other themes to diverse audiences in the UK, and abroad from San Diego to Hong Kong. Ray organises, hosts and presents many on-line art-based seminars for fellow Tate guides and other art lovers. He is a member of his local Arts Society in Blackheath.

This lecture traces the development of the circus from the mid-18th century to the present day, and how it has been depicted and interpreted in fine art, that is in watercolour, oil paint and sculpture. From the UK, artworks by Walter Sickert, Laura Knight and Peter Blake will be shown. From France, there will be works by Edgar Degas, Fernand Leger, Henri Matisse, Georges Seurat, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec and Jean-Antoine Watteau. A highlight of the lecture will be to see Matisse's dazzling circus images from his ground-breaking publication *Jazz*. Other European artists who held the circus dear, such as Marc Chagall and Pablo Picasso, will also have significant parts of the lecture devoted to them. The USA will be represented by works from George Bellows, Reginald Marsh and Alexander Calder. A lot of the artworks will take us inside the 'big top'; but we will also see behind the scenes when performers are off-guard or practising their skills and tricks. Over the last 250 years, the circus has undergone considerable change in terms of ethics, purpose and content. The same could be said about art too, and this lecture will demonstrate how fine art has also changed, by looking at its involvement with a single but fascinating subject – the circus. The lecture will be jargon-free with audience engagement, backed by high quality images.

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.