



Membership Subscriptions

Please remember subscriptions for 2018 are due by **January 10th**. Please make sure you have made your subscription payment to the bank by this date to ensure a place at the February meeting and for our exciting programme of speakers for the year.

February 1st Meeting

Our first meeting of the year is on Thursday 1st February and will commence with the Annual General Meeting at 10.15 (doors open 9.45).

Don't forget our meetings will now take place at Salones Canor, Teulada.

The agenda for the AGM and the meeting will be sent with directions for getting to Salones Canor on 11th January.

Can you help us contact these members?

The following members have paid their subscription to The Arts Society, but have not filled in an application form so we have no way of contacting them. If you know these people please ask them to contact secretary@marinaaltaarts.com as soon as possible

Iona Castro Hastie

Denis Dobson

... Thank you ...

Could you host one of our speakers?

We are always looking for members who would be willing to host our speakers – provide overnight accommodation and/or transport to and from the airport. A modest remuneration is available to cover costs.

In particular we are seeking hosts in 2018 for:

Anne Haworth ('Spain's Art') arrives 28 Feb at Alicante at 12.30 (midday), departs Alicante March 1 at 16.55.

David Winpenny ('Stained Glass') arrives May 2 at Alicante at 13.05, departs May 3 from Alicante 21.35 (can be dropped at Alicante at 19.30) Contact Tony Cabban on chair@marinaaltaarts.com for more information.

Arts Fair 2018

We plan to hold a further Arts Fair in 2018 at Salones Canor, Teulada. The date, expected to be in September, is unconfirmed yet. More information available early in the New Year

Accounts of our last two meetings

November 2nd Gaudi and Barcelona

On November 2 we heard an excellent presentation on **'Gaudí and Barcelona'** from Clyde Binfield, Emeritus* Professor in History at the University of Sheffield, showing us an eccentric man, his unusual work, and the context in which he operated: a rapidly growing city with many potential clients eager to use architecture to flaunt their wealth.

Clyde described Gaudí as a pious Catalan nationalist with an austere life-style, and as a difficult, arrogant man who did not follow established rules. He did not work with conventional architectural plans; instead, he made it up as he went along, using three-dimensional models and improvising on site, often ignoring planning regulations and showing little concern for the client's budget or timing.



Casa Batlló



Casa Milà



Sagrada Família

We enjoyed a masterly survey of Gaudí's work under three headings. First, we saw his apartment buildings for wealthy industrialists, including Casas Vicens, Calvet, Batlló and Milà. Second, we explored his varied work for Eusebi Güell (including Palau Güell, Colònia Güell and Park Güell), a man with bottomless pockets and (therefore?) the only client to give Gaudí repeat business. And third and most important we looked at the Sagrada Família, for which Gaudí took over responsibility in 1883 and which is now perhaps within a decade of completion, a century after Gaudí's death in 1926. Clyde emphasised the extraordinary extent to which Gaudí was an innovator, both structurally and decoratively, with his use of parabolic load-bearing arches requiring no additional buttressing, his extensive use of wrought iron, tiles and tile fragments, his 'sculpture-park' rooftops, and his abhorrence of straight lines.

We were told that when Gaudí graduated from Barcelona University's School of Architecture at the age of 26 in 1878, the Director had wondered whether the school was launching a "genius or a madman". I think that Clyde Binfield led us to a slightly different conclusion: Gaudí was a "genius **and** a madman".

*Emeritus (or Emerita) Professor is an honorary title awarded to retired professors. While the rules vary by country, in British universities it is not conferred on all retirees; it is restricted to a small minority judged to have had a particularly distinguished career. **Peter Atkinson**

December 7th A gentle introduction to Art deco

On 7 December we enjoyed the eagerly awaited lecture by Eric Knowles. We anticipated a full house because of Eric Knowles' national and international acclaim and the expertise and light hearted approach he has shown in the BBC TV Antiques Roadshow; where he has been on the panel of experts for over 30 years! Members may also have been aware of his contributions to Going for a Song. Going, Going, Gone, 20th Century Roadshow, Antiques Master and more recently, Bargain Hunt.



Chrysler Lobby

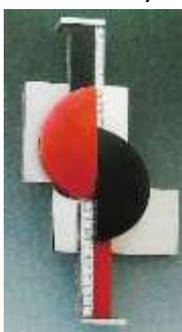
One might have expected a lecture on ceramics, his main interest, but we were treated to an example of his wide knowledge of the world of antiques and style in this lecture on, '**A Gentle Introduction to Art Deco**', hitherto a period of art, style and architecture which had not particularly attracted me. By the end of a totally captivating lecture I was won over! We were treated to a whistle stop tour of wonderful images of the work of artists and designers and architects of the period in a kaleidoscope of art, ceramics, posters, furniture and buildings of the period. The designers had totally incorporated the techniques and design features for every aspect of people's lives from paintings, ceramic ornaments, glassware, interior design, furniture and ultimately the

building in which these treasures were displayed and used in people's everyday lives. He explained how, in the Paris Exhibition of 1925 artists and designers had totally taken to the new style and how Art Nouveau finished abruptly as Art Deco took hold. America had ignored Art Deco until the Paris Exhibition but afterwards totally absorbed it and buildings like the Chrysler Building and the Empire State and their interior design and contents showed how totally Art Deco had been accepted there.



Metal and glass lamp

If members thought they were in for a serious lecture they may be surprised because it was a light-hearted romp through Art Deco with masses of information and great images delivered in a wonderfully amusing, informative and entertaining way.



Brooch

A telling question to Eric Knowles from a member at the end of the lecture was, "Why can't you go on for another twenty minutes?"

Trevor Colgate

Sponsorship

Thank you to our sponsors for 2017 – Blevins Franks, LEXTAX Consulting, Infinity International Ltd., Anton Abogados, Jennifer Cunningham Insurances S.L. and Avalon Europe. Their support keeps subscription costs lower.

Madrid Trip 2018

We are planning a trip to Madrid for October 2018 with guided tours to the major galleries. More information in the New Year