



MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted that so many of you have chosen to renew membership of the Arts Society Marina Alta for 2019 and we are especially pleased to welcome new members. We have an exciting year of lectures ahead of us covering art from a number of cultures, architecture, gardens and music and look forward to seeing you at these events. If you have not yet renewed this is your last chance before the AGM and the start of next year's activities.

We have received membership subscriptions for the following, for which no application form has been received. We are, therefore, not able to make contact. If you have an email address for the following people please contact the Membership secretary on membership@marinaaltaarts.com

Deborah Gray (plus friend) Wilhemina But

TRIPS QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



At the November 2018 meeting we carried out a survey of members' preferences for future Arts Society trips, both short and long. The top 4 destinations chosen by members in each category were as follows:

Long trips – Romanian Art, Art of the Cote D'Azur, Monet's Art and Gardens, and Art and Music in Vienna.

Short trips – Malaga and Picasso, Bilbao and the Guggenheim, Figueres/Cadaques and Barcelona

We are therefore currently investigating the possibility of

- a short trip to Malaga in October 2019 where in addition to the Picasso Museum other museums include the Carmen Thyssen Museum of Andalusian art, The Russian Art Museum and Vidrio Cristal Museum
- a longer trip to Romania in late May 2020 combining art, culture, history and natural beauty and visiting painted monasteries, churches and crosses

Further details will be available soon.

NOVEMBER 1ST MEETING "TREASURES OF THE TURF" BY CHRISTOPHER GARIBALDI



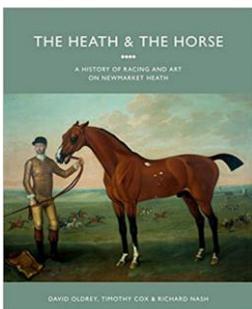
"I don't like horses..." "I'm not really into horse racing..." "It's unkind to them..." But nevertheless these members came and enjoyed a fast-moving, entertaining and instructive presentation by Christopher Garibaldi, Director of The National Horseracing Museum at Newmarket. Garibaldi began with a history of "The Sport of Kings", starting at a gallop with pottery showing contests in the ancient world, when racing took place with neither saddles nor stirrups – described by the speaker as "fantastic feats of horsemanship".

Our journey took us on to the second and third centuries where racing was already taking place at Colchester, London and York – where racing continues to this day on the same stretch of land as was used in Roman times, as it does at Chester. Moving rapidly on, a major development occurred in February 1605 when James 1 was on his way from his hunting lodge in Royston to Thetford. He got stuck in the fog in a place called Newmarket, stayed overnight - and awoke to find a flat, straight piece of heathland ideal for hare coursing, hawking – and horseracing. This town eventually became the headquarters of British horseracing where currently there are now between 2500 and 3000 horses in residence.

James I bought a house there and, later, built the town's first royal palace. James' son, Charles I, built the first stand on the moorland, however, it wasn't until his son, Charles II, inherited the throne and, loving horseracing so much, built a new palace in Newmarket to which he moved his entire court every year. A colourful painting entitled "A Sovereign's Escort" was shown, giving an impression of racing being watched by the king and his courtiers. From these court circles The Jockey Club, the sport's governing body, was founded in 1750. Here, Garibaldi advanced the theory that Charles was not only interested in horses for sport. Another reason for encouraging horse breeding was to replace those lost during the Civil War.

Unsurprisingly, George Stubbs made an appearance, but not in the way we expected. In 1756, on a quest for greater realism in his work, he began dissecting horse carcasses to study the underlying anatomy, the ligaments, arteries, nerves and veins. The resulting illustrations were eventually published as "The Anatomy of the Horse". For this, he became known as "The Leonardo Da Vinci of Horse Painting" and his researches went on to influence the work of subsequent equine artists such as James Ward, John Wootton and Alfred Munnings, all of whose work we saw.

However, we weren't just shown paintings. We also saw photographs of the World's oldest sporting trophies, "The Carlisle Bells". These were first awarded to the winners of The Carlisle Bell, a race first contested in 1599 and still run to this day.



On our way, we passed The three foundation sires of the modern thoroughbred, the [Beverly Turk](#), [Darley Arabian](#) and [Godolphin Barb](#), imported to England in the late 17th and early 18th centuries founding the lines which can be traced down to every modern thoroughbred racehorse; the first Grand National in 1835 - and Queen Victoria's disapproval of horseracing. Andrew Ward

More information can be obtained from the book "The Heath and the Horse: A History of Newmarket Heath" by Timothy Cox, David Oldrey and Richard Nash, and from the Palace of Westminster website.

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TRIP TO ALICANTE TO VISIT THE VAN GOGH ALIVE EXHIBITION 9TH NOVEMBER 2018



Twenty members of The Arts Society joined with members of *The Arts Space* to visit the Van Gogh exhibition in Alicante. Our first stop in Alicante was the Museum of Contemporary Art of Alicante, MACA, situated in an old granary, the oldest civil building in the city. MACA comprises 4 galleries of permanent collections of contemporary drawings, paintings and sculpture including some fascinating moving sculptures in various materials. A further gallery provides space for temporary exhibitions. On the day we visited the temporary exhibition was of the photography of Luis Gordillo who experimented, in black and white, with super-imposing and distorting images.

After lunch, in the sunshine in the surrounding streets the coach whisked us off to the Lonja, the old fish market, for the *Van Gogh Alive* exhibition. This was an art exhibition like no other as giant projections of the artist's paintings surrounded us. The images filled walls, columns, ceilings and the floor. We were taken on a journey through the locations



associated with Van Gogh's paintings accompanied by haunting classical music.

Many of the painting came alive in movement. This was certainly a new and exciting way to appreciate art.



There was a short stop in Altea on the way home where some members of the group took the opportunity to visit the excellent shops for art materials while the rest explored the picturesque old town or partook of tea and mouth-watering cakes in a small patisserie.

Thank you to *The Arts Space* for inviting us to join them on this interesting and well-planned day.

(For more details of The Arts Space in Sanet y Negrals contact artsspacesanet@gmail.com)

Dodie Hodgkinson

DECEMBER 6TH MEETING LATE TURNER BY NICOLA MOORBY



Nicola Moorby inspired and entertained members about the later works of JMW Turner. She regaled us with many anecdotes and titbits about his life including how one critic called some of his work 'pictures of nothing'. Nicola certainly showed us that was not the case using a couple of quizzes referencing some of his earlier work including a trick question to keep us on our toes!

Turner's ability and skill was way ahead of his time which often led to him being a victim of the Victorian equivalent of today's social media trolling as the perception of his work then was completely different to how his work is now known and loved throughout the world. He was a man ahead of his time, a rebel and rule breaker, in fact rewriting many of the 'rules' of the art world especially the techniques used to depict light and his use of paint and brushstrokes still used by artists today. Following the lecture Nicola answered questions from members - a truly thought provoking morning.

Lindsay Hart

EXHIBITIONS AT THE BANCAJA FOUNDATION VALENCIA

If you are in Valencia in the New Year you may be interested in the following exhibitions at the Fundacion Bancaja in Plaza Tetuan.

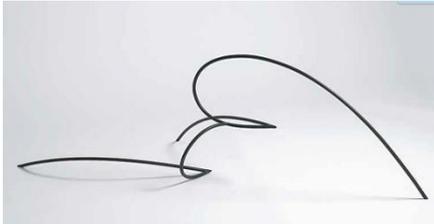


Picasso L'alegria de Viure brings together a selection of works that illustrate Picasso's joy of life. The exhibition which is on the first floor is divided into different sections such as the circus and clowns, bullfighting, Mediterranean culture, inspiration from great masters such as Velazquez and the painter-model relationship. There are only 12 paintings, the rest of the exhibition being of lithographs and pottery.

Los Segadores on loan from the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

Open until 31.3.19

Laboratori de Formes Escultoriques on the second floor is a retrospective of the works of Andreu Alfaro, one of the main Spanish sculptors of the 20th century. The exhibition traces the 8 chapters of the development of his technique and includes the scale models he made in preparation for the final works. Alfaro's graceful steel structures grace parks and open spaces in many Spanish cities including Madrid, Gerona, Barcelona and Valencia. A comprehensive video shows these urban sculptures many of which you will recognise. A sculpture has also been put on display in Plaza Tetuan.



Rising Figure from the exhibition

Open until 03.02.19



Uiso El suicidi de la pintura on the fourth floor is an exhibition of the work of Uiso Alemany. His modern art work has been described as non-conformist and visceral. Sheep feature in many of his paintings some of which are large and almost 3 dimensional.

Open until 24.02.19



L'Expulsió dels Moriscos is a fascination exhibition round the back of Bancaja accessed by a separate entrance. The collection of 7 paintings, six on display, was commissioned by King Phillip II who wanted to fix the expulsion of the Moors in memory as a success for the Spanish people. Practically one third of the population were expelled. The paintings on show are of the expulsion in Vinaros and Denia, the riot of the Muela de Cortes, the Grau in Valencia and the arrival of the Moriscos in Oran, and a confrontation between the Moriscos and Christians.



The expulsion of the Moors in Denia

These paintings are huge and allow us to contemplate these events in Spanish history from a different perspective. Also in this area is a vast Sorolla painting of the bread and the peace. Open until 01.03.19



I am the bread and the peace. Sorolla