

WHERE TO MEET

The Society meets at
2.30pm on the fourth Thursday
of each month
(except in August and December)

in
The Church Hall
Cresswell Park
Blackheath
London SE3 9RD

Annual membership:
£65 for one person,
£105 for two people
living at the same address.
Guests are very welcome
at £10 a lecture.
There is no need to book.

For more information contact
the membership secretary
LINDA STRADLING
(lindastradling@btinternet.com)

or visit our website:
www.theartssocietyblackheath.org.uk

COMMITTEE

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PROGRAMME 2026



Pauline Boty, *The Only Blonde in the World* (1963)
Image by Ray Warburton

The Arts Society Blackheath Programme of Lectures 2026

Thursday 22 January

Female Patrons of the Avante-Garde

Caroline Levisse

As the National Gallery exhibits works from the Kröller-Müller collection, we learn more about this passionate art collector who, from 1907 to 1939 acquired around 11,500 objects. We will explore why and how Helene Kröller-Müller collected modern art, and envisioned it displayed in an innovative museum. We examine how other early 20th Century female patrons also became taste-makers and shaped the art world.

Thursday 26 February

Bernini v Borromini

Stuart Harvey

The 1600s in Rome was dominated by the great rivalry between architects Gianlorenzo Bernini and Francesco Borromini. We will examine some of Bernini's greatest sculptures, such as Apollo and Daphne, before comparing and contrasting their parallel careers and architectural styles as they remade Rome in Baroque splendour.

Thursday 26 March

Pauline Boty: the greatest artist you know little about!

Ray Warburton

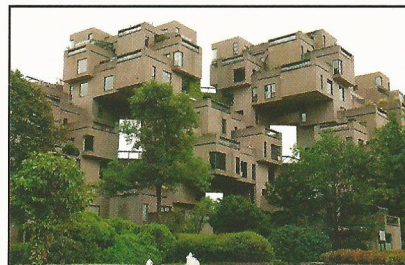
Pauline Boty is perhaps one of the most innovative painters to come out of the Royal College of Art in the early 60s and yet few have heard of her. She used her natural talent and intelligence to create some of the most thoughtful Pop Art paintings of the decade. In doing so she embraced her own femininity and grasp of sexual politics, developing the collage and painting styles of the day. The tale of her young death is unbearably sad, but the recent re-discovery of her work, is both heartwarming and inspirational

Thursday 23 April

Brutalist Architecture

Sarah Pearson

Love them or hate them, Brutalist buildings are now listed and protected as a part of our architectural heritage. Brutalist structures, with their blockish forms and concrete construction are often described as ugly, crude and drab yet there are examples of this building type which merit a second look. Considering Britain's best (or most notorious) Brutalist constructions, as well as notable examples from around the world, this lecture will shed new light on an architectural style which we may yet learn to love!



Habitat 67, Montreal (Wikimedia Commons)

Thursday 28 May

Book Illustration

Jonathan Causer

Is it really true that a picture is worth 1000 words? The most ancient text illustration is in a book nearly 3000 years old: we can still see the picture, but not read the book. The least ancient is rolling off the press today. In this talk we will look at the many ways in which illustrations are used, the techniques by which they are made from illuminated manuscript to AI, and wonder which of picture and text might eventually displace the other.

Thursday 25 June

An Eclipse of the Art; Rediscovering Ukraine's Artistic Treasures

Louise Hardiman

Ukraine has been an artistic powerhouse from Byzantine times but eclipsed by its neighbours, so few have known of its significance. We will discuss the founding Russe myth, and onwards through to its powerful influence on European modernism. Louise is Member-at-Large for the Society for Historians of East European and Russian Art, so she is exceptionally well placed to comment on current as well as past events.

Thursday 23 July

Cyanotypes; art in blue

Sarah Garrod

Prepare to be amazed by this early photographic process, now an art form. Discovered in the 1840s by Sir John Herschel and developed by Anna Atkins, who used it to create botanical illustrations of seaweed. Local artist and photographer Sarah Garrod uses Cyanotypes to produce beautiful images and will demonstrate her technique.



Cyanotype Kimono by Sarah Garrod

Thursday 24 September

Please note: meeting starts at 2.00pm with AGM

Beethoven and his illnesses.

Alan Silman

Beethoven's deafness was just a minor part of the physical and psychological problems he suffered from during his life. From his own voluminous diaries and correspondence, he communicated his daily struggles. In this talk his declining health will be compared with extracts from his most magnificent compositions. How he composed despite these adversities remains a mystery but also a sign of true genius.

Thursday 22 October

Modern Art Glass

Mark Hill

1960s saw a revolution in the way glass was made, allowing it to be used as a medium for art. After looking at the historical context and the genesis of the movement, I examine the work of six key glass artists from the US and the UK, including Dale Chihuly, Sam Herman, and Peter Layton. Containing previously unseen photographs taken at the time, this talk also includes my top tips and an overview of the market today.

Thursday 26 November

The Art of Deception

Bertie Pearce

There is a universal delight in being deceived! In this lecture, Bertie Pearce takes his audience on a whistle stop tour of art which fools, surprises and amuses. Beginning and ending with the Belgian surrealist, René Magritte, it encompasses Trompe L'oeil, Banksy, Bridget Riley, Arcimboldo and Escher to name a few. Hold on to your seats and get ready to be visually fried.