The Love School: The Pre-Raphaelites and Their World
With Adrian Sumner

FRIDAY, 23RD - SUNDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY

Starting as an anti-establishment secret society, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood soon set the Victorian art world on fire. From the early jewel-like pictures of the ‘truth-to-nature’ style, developed a dreamy, Medieval art, which had a profound effect not only on the English, but also the continental and American Avante-Garde.

In this lavishly-illustrated course, Adrian Sumner looks more closely at John Millais, William Holman-Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his inspired pupil Edward Burne-Jones, and the waves of influence they exerted on William Morris the Arts and Crafts Movement, the Aesthetic Movement, Symbolism, Decadence and the period style of Art Nouveau.

A graduate of Liverpool College of Art, Adrian has worked as an Illustrator, Arts Development Officer and Lecturer in various academic and public institutions including NADFAS. Latterly he was Arts Development Officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a particular interest in Visual Arts. Currently he divides his time between organising study weekends in Britain, cruise ship lectures, painting and exhibiting, and delivering study days and single lectures in Britain and abroad.

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Programme

Friday, 23rd February
6pm  Welcome and introductions
6.45pm  Dinner
7.45pm  The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood: Looking at the core group of friends including Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais, whose boyhood dreams of Truth to Nature and a Poetic Medieval World led to a style which is now more popular than ever, but in its own time created a storm of revolution.

Saturday, 24th February
8am  Breakfast
9.30am  William Morris, Edward Burne Jones and the Arts and Crafts Movement: Horrified by the 1852 Great Exhibition and taught by the charismatic Rossetti, Morris and Burne-Jones invented a new variant of Pre-Raphaelitism which resounded until the end of the century. Inspired by Mallory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*; William Blake; and Rossetti's own verses, the friends were also key to the Arts and Crafts Movement leading to Liberty, the Aesthetic Movement, the ‘Home Beautiful’, and International Art Nouveau.

11am  Coffee
11.30am  Victorian Painting: Like the Victorians and the contradictory social forces they created, the art of this period is multi-faceted and iridescent with delights. Including Social Realism, the Aesthetic Movement, Landscape, Portrait, Narrative and more.

1pm  Lunch
2pm  Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Gustav Klimt: A spotlight on the ‘Glasgow Four’ and the Vienna Secession, and the profound influence they exerted upon each other and the world.

3.30pm  Tea
4pm  Free afternoon with optional visit to neighbouring St Deiniol’s church to view the stained-glass windows; the last Edward Burne-Jones ever designed.

6.45pm  Dinner
7.45pm  Film: *Dante’s Inferno* (Ken Russell, 1967, 1h 30m)

Sunday, 25th February
8am  Breakfast
9.30am  Symbolism and the Decadence: In Britain this style is exemplified best by Aubrey Beardsley and by some of the writings of Oscar Wilde. Look closer and the iceberg beneath is revealed, including fascinating works by Fernand Khnopf, Gustav Moreau, Eugene Grasset, Georges de Feure and a host of artists - none of them household names, but each having a hypnotic and startling effect on art in Europe, America, and the world.

11am  Coffee
11.30am  International Art Nouveau: The period style of the Belle Epoque (1890s to the Great War); this is the land of the Green Fairy, the Whiplash line, Japonaiserie and the Grosvenor Gallery artists. The style took many names and forms and features the work of Tiffany, Mucha, Lalique, Galle, Klimt and Mackintosh.

12.30pm  Lunch and depart