

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

At Big School Epsom College

Wednesday 21 October 2026

The Mirror of Reality: Flemish Art from Van Eyck to Bruegel

Three lectures presented by Clare Ford-Wille

Dear Members

In the 15th century a new direction is given by Netherlandish artists in Bruges and Ghent such as the Limbourg Brothers, Jan Van Eyck, Rogier Van der Weyden and Memling. Their experiments in the new painting technique and interest in the accurate representation of natural objects were of lasting significance to artistic achievements in the rest of Europe. The National Gallery will be holding a very exciting and remarkable exhibition with all the portraits by Jan van Eyck. It is remarkable because it is rare that such delicate paintings and panels from the 15th century are allowed to travel nowadays. New ideas such as landscape and the emergence of extraordinary hell scenes by Hieronymous Bosch became influential on future 16th century artists.

PROGRAMME

Registration in the foyer of Big School 10.00am

Lecture 1: *Jan van Eyck to Memling and the Emergence of the Portrait in the 15th Century*: A celebration of the National Gallery Exhibition and the development of portraiture in 15th and 16th century Flemish painting. 10.15-11.15

Coffee and comfort break 11.15-12.00

Lecture 2: *Hell and Damnation from Bosch to Pieter Bruegel the Elder in Flemish Painting 1480 - 1560* : An exploration of the impact of the Protestant Reformation and the innovative subject matter of these extraordinary artists. 12.00-13.00

Lunch 13.00-14.30

Lecture 3: *Flemish Painters and the Development of Landscape from Background to Foreground 1520 to 1620* : Pieter Bruegel is said to have 'swallowed the Alps and spewed them forth on his return from Italy'. This lecture will explore the emergence of the subject of landscape from Patinir and Pieter Bruegel the Elder to Rubens and Esaias van de Velde.. 14.30-15.30

Tickets cost £48.00 and include a hot lunch.

This is an open meeting. Visitors welcome

Tickets can be purchased from **1st September** by payment by bank transfer. Alternatively, tickets will be on sale for payment by credit/debit card before the lectures on **23 September and 7 October 2026**.

To obtain tickets by bank transfer please email me at specialinterestdays@gmail.com Please include:

- a. Details of your name(s) and any guests;
- b. Your telephone number; and
- c. Any special dietary needs.

Then make payment of £48.00 per person by bank transfer to the Society account:

The Arts Society Epsom

Sort code: 40-08-44

Account no: 71237640

Add the reference: SID followed by your surname

When I receive updates from the Treasurer regarding payments made I will email you confirming that your place has been reserved. Separate tickets will not be issued: simply come to Big School at Epsom College and give your name to the volunteer on the desk who will check you in. There are NO refunds.

Applications for tickets will **not** be accepted after **Friday 9th October**.

Kind regards

Virginia Jervis

Special Interest Day Secretary

If you are new to the Society you may wonder
What is a SID?

Within our Arts Society we arrange Special Interest Days (SIDs).

This is an opportunity to study a topic in greater depth by having 3 lectures around a common theme.

The Arts Society Epsom arranges 2 SIDs each year in Autumn and Spring.

We are fortunate enough to use the facilities of Epsom College for our SIDs so have a wonderful auditorium with tiered seating and excellent IT presentation facilities.

The day usually consists of 3 lectures - 2 in the morning with a coffee break in between followed by a delicious hot lunch in the College's dining room.

The day concludes with a third lecture.

This a great opportunity to not only get closer to the speaker and ask questions but to chat to other members of the Society.

I do hope that you can join us at a SID soon. You can even bring a friend who a not a member to see who we are and what we do!

Virginia Jervis
SID Secretary