

Happy New Year to all our members!

As the bells sounded in the New Year – well actually the next morning – I started to think about my New Year's resolutions and decided to dedicate more time to painting and not let myself be distracted by committee work, housework and all those other displacement activities. Just as I was thinking about this, I received two contributions that chimed with my own thoughts. Graham is right – let's commit to put time aside for our art – but so is Lynne, it does all sound rather

Alison Chandler

New Year's Resolutions

Now's the time to set yourself an art challenge for 2025. I didn't paint as much in 2024 as I would have liked, so I've set myself the challenge of painting at least 3 small paintings a week to send out as gifts to family, friends and acquaintances.

As I write this on January 3rd, the first three have been delivered, and the next few have already been completed.

A few small paintings a week will give me the opportunity to practice some acquired skills or to try out new ones or to be completely experimental perhaps having been inspired by someone or something at a WOKAS Demo or Meet and Create session. *Graham Lock*

Sound Familiar Anyone?

Some New Year's Resolutions I am just about to start Eating less, moving more and creating much more art, I have no excuses on this last one, I have lots of arty stuff My family bought me more things, I feel I never have enough. There are watercolours, pastels, acrylics, charcoal, oils, Boxes of mixed media things, like tissue, scraps and foils, Jam jars stuffed with brushes, filberts, riggers, nylon and sable Gels and sprays and inks and glaze lined up along my table. Sketchbooks, textbooks, art pads, mountboards, card and papers Easels, mahl sticks, blenders, latex gloves and special scrapers, Assorted pens and fixers, aprons, scalpels, PVA And folders of old dodgy art I am too shy to display, I have all the gear, not much idea, save that above my station What I really need, but cannot buy a burst of inspiration!

Lynne Slatter



THURSDAY MEETINGS

We have had some great demos and guided sessions in our Thursday evening sessions, but sometimes the turnout from members has been a little disappointing. If you have any suggestions on how to encourage more people to attend, please let us know. Plans are already afoot for next winter's programme, so now is the time to let us have your ideas.



LOST PROPERTY!

I have been carrying these items round since last summer. Please claim them soon or they will be lost forever to the clutches of a local charity shop!





CAN YOU SMILE?

If so, become our “greeter” on Thursday evenings! Wokas prides itself on being a friendly society but very often the committee are too busy setting up to greet people as they arrive. If you would like to take on this role on Thursday evenings, please have a word with a committee member. No artistic credentials needed, just a friendly smile.



CALLING ALL PRINT-MAKERS AND PICASSO FANS

Don't forget to go to the British Museum's exhibition of Picasso prints (on until March 30th). Picasso made over 2,400 prints over his lifetime, including lithographs, linocuts and etchings and though lesser known they are just as striking as his paintings. They also reflect the varied influences of other artists and cultures and demonstrate a huge range of different styles. Take a look at <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/picasso-printmaker> for a preview.



Thanks to all those who took part in our Open Day. We had an excellent display of work and were rewarded with some new members signing up. Sales were disappointing but we certainly raised our profile locally.

Renaissance, renaissance, renaissance!

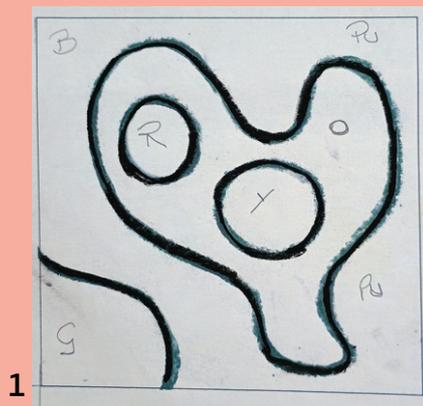
If you haven't yet watched the BBC 3 parter Renaissance, go straight to iPlayer now and watch it on catch up! You won't regret it. I had recorded the series while I was away and had braced myself for a rather heavy programme. How wrong I was! The presentation – half documentary, half drama documentary – was highly watchable and the history of the interaction between Michelangelo, da Vinci and Raphael was absolutely fascinating.

Your newly acquired wealth of background knowledge can then be put to good use when you attend one of two London exhibitions featuring drawings by the trio. The King's Gallery (formerly Queen's Gallery) exhibition Drawing the Italian Renaissance runs until March 9th and has been met with great critical acclaim. Book your ticket from <https://www.rct.uk/1-year-pass> to ensure you can convert it free of charge into a one year pass valid for future exhibitions.

The Royal Academy's exhibition Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael runs until February 16th and certainly merits a visit. I was extremely impressed by the delicacy of the many Michelangelo drawings, but the highlight of the exhibition is da Vinci's Burlington House Cartoon. This magnificent drawing measuring over 4'6" in height has great subtlety and feeling, truly deserving its reputation as a masterpiece.



The monoprinting workshop was fascinating and "simple"!



We had to start small with a simple square format. Having chosen a design, not too complicated, but interesting. We were then given the 3 primary colours & starting with yellow we completely covered the plate with ink. Having covered the whole plate we then wiped areas of the design leaving parts of the plate inkless. A print was then made.

Having cleaned the plate we rolled the second colour, wiped some areas & printed again. By leaving some of the 2nd colour to overprint the first we produced a secondary colour. The third colour was then added in the same way & the third overprint was done. Great fun!

Pat Lock

IT'S ALL FREE!

V&A South Kensington

National Art Library and Archive talks (Monday at 11.30 except Bank Holidays)

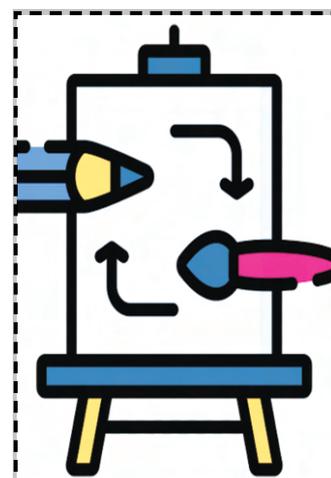
Join National Art Library and V&A Archive staff each Monday for a short talk on an item of their choosing. Museum visitors will encounter some extraordinary collection items and experience the Victorian splendour of our Reading Rooms.

Talk

🗓 On now until Monday, 15
December 2025

📍 V&A South Kensington

🎟 Free



WHY NOT TRY A WORKSHOP?

I know many of you are "self-tutoring" using the many YouTube art instruction videos. If you have a favourite, please email it to me at a.j.chandler@hotmail.co.uk with a few words about why it helped you. I would like to compile a list of your recommendations for our next newsletter.

There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but... I recently stumbled across this advert. It certainly sounds tempting and worth a detour if you are in London on a Monday. There is no need to book, but simply arrive at the main entrance to the NAL on the First Floor of the V&A just before the session begins.



ART ON YOUTUBE

I know many of you are “self-tutoring” using the many YouTube art instruction videos. If you have a favourite, please email it to me at a.j.chandler@hotmail.co.uk with a few words about why it helped you. I would like to compile a list of your recommendations for our next newsletter.



OVER 60?

It's not all bad news! Claim your 50% discount on the National Portrait Gallery's forthcoming exhibition of Edvard Munch Portraits. This offer applies every Monday throughout the exhibition which runs from 13th March to 15th June.

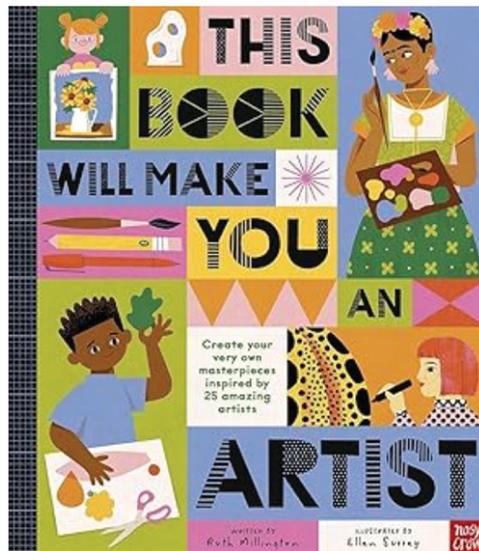


Pallant House: 2 for the price of 1

The excellent Pallant House Gallery in Chichester is currently running a retrospective exhibition of the painter Dora Carrington. Carrington, who died young, is better known for her association with the Bloomsbury Group and has rarely been exhibited. The exhibition covers her landscape paintings, portraits, and drawings.

Also showing at Pallant House is Maggie Hambling's new show \Nightingale Night. Painted iridescent splashes and rivulets of gold on black backgrounds the series of paintings were inspired by a night visit to a Sussex wood "to listen and be completely inspired and absorbed in this extraordinary sound, this otherworldly song of the Nightingale". Other paintings are inspired by the music of Leonard Cohen, PJ Harvey, Nick Cave and Will Young
Both exhibitions run to the 27th April.

Book recommendation for the (grand)children



Member Lynne Slatter reports that her grandchildren really took to this book. It introduces children to some of our best-known artists and gives step by step instructions for them to have a go at producing something in the same style. The introductions contain reproductions of real works of art and the sections on Now it's your Turn list the materials needed and give clear instructions.

The proof of the pudding is always in the eating and if Lynne's grandchildren loved this, I'm sure yours will too!

Alison Chandler

At the Courtauld Gallery

Goya to Impressionism. Masterpieces from the Oskar Reinhart Collection 14 Feb - 26 May 2025

For the first time in its history, a rich array of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist highlights from the Reinhart collection will be displayed outside Switzerland. This is a chance for most of us to see these works for the first time so book early!

