



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: The Art of Stanley Spencer

Course code

Q00017938

Course date

Start: 17/01/25

End: 14/02/25

Number of classes

5 sessions

Timetable

Fri 17th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 24th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 31st Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 7th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 14th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £37.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This five week course will explore the richness and diversity of the English painter, Stanley Spencer. We will discover both well-known and less well-known works of his, which span his career as an artist. All of the paintings examined will be provided on Canvas for you to assess. The course will explore Spencer's context and how he relates to contemporary art movements in Britain and Europe. You will be encouraged to participate fully in the analysis of his canvases, and to seek out other works which you think will enrich our discussions. The course will be an opportunity to discover Spencer for the first time or to rediscover him, and to evaluate his importance to the English tradition.

Course description

In our five discussions, we will explore Stanley Spencer's art and his world from five different perspectives. These will include:

Through his friendships and relationships.

Through his affinity with the English landscape.

Through his sexuality.

Through his unconventional faith.

Through his work relating to the Great War, which marked him profoundly in his after years, after his return from the war, where he had worked in the ambulance corps.

In this manner we will discover elements such as serious whimsy, a mannerism which he shares with the writer Virginia Woolf, and indeed Spencer existed for a while on the periphery of Bloomsbury.

Bloomsbury as one knows was a sometimes febrile gathering of competing sexualities and egos, and we will note how Spencer's nudes which were once considered shocking may now be seen to prefigure some of the work of Lucian Freud.

We will also consider Spencer's religious art, which reaches back before Raphael, and which is firmly located in the countryside around Cookham, where the resurrection seems both immanent and imminent. Perhaps, it is this unconventional Christian vision which sharpens his war art as well.

Come along and enjoy lively discussions of these topics and others

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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