



Berwick Educational Association
LA BELLE EPOQUE (1871-1914)
A five week course by Professor Maria Chester
Thursdays 8th March - 5th April 2018 10am -12noon,
William Elder Building, 56 -58 Castlegate, Berwick

I thought that these words taken from an interview made to Christophe Leribault, Director of the Petit Palais in Paris, would inspire you about the essence of our course:

"Paris was one great party. There was a spirit of confidence, of joie de vivre, with so many things going on at the same time. Even the future king of England came to Paris to enjoy himself. It was the capital of everything. It was one big party with elements of the funfair about it. La belle époque was very fluid artistically; there were lots of different movements and excesses. People were saying, 'we don't know where we are going but lots of things are happening and we are going to have pleasure and fun. We may even mock ourselves, that's how fun it is.' "

Our course will be an extraordinary journey including a preliminary introduction to all those great art movements that changed forever our perception of what is art: Fauvism, Cubism and Futurism, the latter deeply influenced by the creation of "moving pictures" by the Lumiere Brothers that we call cinema.

Art Nouveau was born just as a decorative art but with a twist: it was highly sensual and even pornographic. Art Nouveau also arrived into Scotland through the hand of the great Rennie Mackintosh and his wife, Margaret Macdonald. We shall look at Art Nouveau in Europe and in Britain.

As a curiosity of those years, we shall also consider the nature and character of some special people, products of La Belle Époque: we will talk about the extraordinary Marchesa Casati as well

as the unique French writer Marcel Proust. We shall read some of his famous words in the transcendental masterpiece of his “ *A la Recherche du Temps Perdue*”.

Finally we shall study the great Diaghilev and his Ballets Russes. All the great painters including Picasso worked for him designing the scenery and the clothes for the dancers.

Content of course:

8th March Week 1: **INTRODUCTION**

LA BELLE EPOQUE - ART NOUVEAU-RENNIE MACKINTOSH AND ANTONI GAUDI

15th March Week 2: **ART MOVEMENTS**

1905-FAUVISM | 1907-CUBISM | 1909-FUTURISM

22nd March week 3: **LITERATURE**

MARCEL PROUST “*A la Recherche du temp perdu*”

29th March Week 4: **FASHION & CINEMA**

MARCHESA CASATI – ORIGIN OF CINEMA – LUMIERE BROTHERS

5th April Week 5: **BALLET**

LES BALLETS RUSSES – Diaghilev and Nijinsky

All are welcome. The lectures will be accessible to all and no previous knowledge is assumed. The lectures will include extracts of videos, documentaries, music and dance.

The cost of the course is £30 and includes refreshments.

[To book online, please click here](#)

To book by mail, please fill in the booking form below, and mail to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX along with a cheque in favour of Berwick Educational Association. If you have any queries, please email berwickea@gmail.com or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254

Name

Address

Tel No

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(Belle Epoque)