



'The Muddy Archaeologist'

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Art Lectures

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Watch my NADFAS show reel
& 4-minute NADFAS Special
www.muddyarchaeologist.co.uk

Digging deep into history to add Colour, Depth and Meaning to life today

Lively, engaging and professional talks showing what Ancient Art tells us about the people who made it, and how it still influences us today

Lectures, Study Days/Weekends, Study Tours & Cruises (UK & Europe)

Sculpture – Frescoes – Glass – Pottery – Mosaics - Metalworking – Architecture – Gems – Jewellery

All talks are fully and richly illustrated with high quality digital images.

2017 Arts Society Ratings

Outstanding 25%
Excellent 51%
Very Good 17%

Study Days

Engaging and lively days studying ancient and classical art.

Or mix'n'match a selection of lectures; I will provide any focus or combination you wish. Or opt for a popular pre-selected day such as:

From Flints to Frescoes: How to Enjoy Ancient Art

Explore how to really appreciate the art, skill and aesthetics of ancient art. Consider interior decoration since Egyptian wall paintings to the Ancient Greeks' and Romans' colourful frescoes and artful mosaics; contrast exuberant Minoan pottery designs with later black- and red-figure Athenian vases. And follow the development of sculpture from formal Egyptian figures through the innovative Greeks and on to the distinctive Romans. See how art has been a part of our lives for thousands of years, in personal art of jewellery, and discover how newly invented materials created fresh expressions; even the flint tools of our early ancestors have an exquisite beauty in their material, craftsmanship and form.

A Mediterranean Tour: Not Just a Load of Old Stones (The Study Day): Learn how to identify and appreciate the art of the distinctive ancient civilisations. Egypt, Mycenaean, Minoan, Phoenician, Etruscan, Greek, Hellenistic, Roman ... They're all here, demystifying the who, where, when, how and why of Ancient Art in a richly illustrated virtual tour of the ancient Mediterranean.

Art in Roman Britain: Finding and understanding the glories of Roman art & how they reveal lives lived 2,000 years ago. Take a virtual tour of the varied Roman sites in Britain. Learn to see museum artefacts as archaeologists do – discover little-known tricks of the trade to really enjoy and appreciate Roman Art & culture. Why not include a trip to a site or museum near you?

Classical Art and the Perception of Beauty: Greek and Roman art and their Legacy – what changed and what stayed the same. How DO we interpret beauty?

The Dawn of Western Art: Ancient Greece & Rome: From statues to mosaics and from pottery to glassware, the Greeks and Romans transformed Western art. Treat your members to a Study Day that makes every member an expert on the great developments and legacy of the classical world.

Lectures

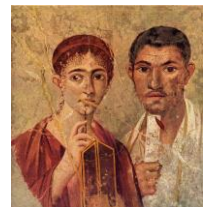
io Saturnalia – Happy Christmas the Roman Way!

Early Christians celebrated Christmas at the same time as the ancient Romans were feasting and partying for their pagan Saturnalia festival. Many of the pagan habits were therefore absorbed into our Christmas traditions. Present-giving, holly and even party-hats all have their origins in this 2,000 year old party. This talk will revel in artwork that is ancient and modern as we unwrap the images and stories behind our festive season



Digging Deeper in Pompeii with the 'Muddy Archaeologist'

Share the excitement of excavating sites buried by Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79. Why was this tragedy such an archaeological miracle? From the richest villa to humble workshops, Gillian Hovell who has excavated at Oplontis, gives you inside information, from an archaeologist's view, revealing what the unearthed art tells us about the lives of the people who lived (and died) here.



A Mediterranean Tour: Not just a Load of Old Stones

A tour of the Mediterranean is a visit into the past; ancient sites are littered with ruined architecture, and museums are full of works of art testifying to once great civilisations.

This extremely popular virtual tour of the Ancient Mediterranean will share not only who those civilisations were and how they fit together into a 'big picture', but especially how you can identify whose art or architecture are whose and why their lives and cultures prompted them to create such features; learn what to expect from sites and how to find the special personal details that thrill archaeologists; discover how to walk in the footsteps of the ancients and to see the sites as they might have done. You'll never look at ancient sites in the same way again ... (This talk anticipates the publication of my next book which is on the same theme).



Roman Britain Unearthed: What did the Romans Really do for Art?

A firm favourite with societies: how and why our art (even in our modern homes) owes so much to the Romans.

When the Romans invaded in AD 43 they came to stay and they brought with them not just their soldiers and their language, but their culture, way of life and art.

We tap into what archaeology can tell us about the lives of ancient Britons as they adapted to Roman rule. As town life became the way ahead, art and skills flourished and became embedded in our society. We look at our own modern lives too, to explore and bring to life the continuing impact Rome's invasion of Britain. We are still a product of Ancient Rome and, after this talk, your own homes – and those of your hosts when you visit – will never look the same again!



A Classical Gallery of Rogues: The Eternal Pantheon

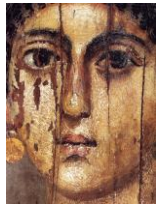
A frequently requested playful look at the Greek and Roman gods. The Romans adopted the Greek gods, renamed most of them and used them for their own ends. Each one was related to a different aspect of life, and had his or her own attributes and distinguishing features in ancient art. Discover how to identify them and, as they pose divinely, we hear ancient tales of metamorphoses and of gods behaving badly. Why and how are their images still used today, and what messages do they bear today?



Roman Art and the Perception of Beauty, Then and Now

A philosophical lecture on art; is beauty timeless? Or is it bounded by the times we live in? How can Roman art tell us if beauty really is in the eye of the beholder?

We take a look at how the Romans expressed and revealed beauty in art forms that we still use today. The result is startling, being both alien and familiar. The shifting sands of beauty become apparent, but what remains constant is our need to express a message in our art, a message that says what we consider important, admirable and maybe aesthetically pleasing too. Is beauty in the eye of the beholder, or is it in society's *mores*, and in the mind? What is certain is that a study of Roman art opens our eyes to view our own art – including our everyday art in our own homes – in a new refreshing way.



Pompeii: A Fresh Look at Frescoes

Prepare to be captivated and deeply moved. The tragedy of Pompeii's burial by Vesuvius' eruption on 24 August AD 79 provided an archaeological miracle that enables us to see how and why Roman villas were richly decorated with stunningly beautiful frescoes. They show us aspects of Roman life that archaeologists could never have guessed at without these remarkably preserved images. By examining the fashions that had changed over the decades, we can share the aspirations and personalities of the rich owners of the villas. We can even look the owners in the eye, for their portraits were preserved for two thousand years. The Romans are brought to life for us by the very powers that killed so many.

Pompeii: A Product of its Time

A deep insight into the many kinds of art found in the homes and streets of Pompeii; they reveal a thoroughly modern world, one full of material goods and works of art, in which craftsmanship and artistry were draped around the Romans themselves and amidst their everyday lives.

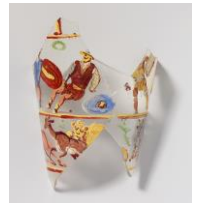
We explore how the Empire provided materials and the opportunity for this wealth of art to be accessible to more people than ever before. Pompeii's survival gives us a glimpse of the Roman Empire, in all its vastness. Its burial captured a moment in time when the Empire was a multicultural, vibrant and growing power that reached into the lives of everyone, rich or poor. Its triumph and tragedy still speak to us across the millennia.



Beyond the Glass Case

We take the lid off those silent museum cases. Roman life was rich in material goods and it provides archaeologists with perhaps the most finds in any archaeological excavations in history.

As we take a virtual tour through the range of artifacts displayed to us in Roman museums everywhere, I share with you the tricks of the archaeologist's trade that enable us to discover the art – both fine art and daily art that lurks in the most humble of finds. This art reveals to us the secrets of its owners' lives, their hopes and aspirations, their connections and their public image. Museums exist to share something of the lives of those who lived before us; see them in a new light and let those lives speak clearly to us through the broken and cracked remains of Roman art.



What did the Greeks Ever do for Art?

Ancient Greek art blossomed and then the Romans took that art – the sculpture, frescoes, vase painting, architecture and so much more – and made it their own. New media, new styles and new expressions burst forth, and this vibrant cocktail created the basis for Western Art for millennia.

Just what did those Greek artists achieve that was so world-changing? It wasn't just the media they expressed themselves in and the unforgettable works they created which have been echoed over the millennia, it was a mind-set that established how we would look at art for centuries to come. This talk explores how and why we owe so much to the ancient Greeks, and we identify the tell-tale marks of our debt to classical art around us today.



Visions of Prehistoric Art

Vibrant and energetic, alive and exquisitely detailed, personal and intimate, prehistoric art constantly surprises us and makes us re-evaluate our perception of our ancient ancestors and what it means to be human.



Tours & Cruises



I regularly lecture on the wonderful small ship *Aegean Odyssey* with Voyages to Antiquity. Please contact me to enquire about special Muddy Archaeologist Arts Society Groups on board

Exclusive Muddy Archaeologist Group on the stunning Aegean Cruise

The Arts Society Anniversary Cruise

1-10th October 2018 (& optional extension to 22nd October)

Explore the itineraries & wonderful shore excursions & price options at www.voyagestoantiquity.com

Ask to join 'The Muddy Archaeologist's Group' at the time of booking (essential!) Please quote booking code: Aegean AEG181005
Enquiries in the first instance to Gillian Hovell, The Muddy Archaeologist Tel. 07860 637301 email: Gillian@muddyarchaeologist.co.uk



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