



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FYLDE

**WHERE LEONARDO  
MEETS PICASSO -  
THE WORLD'S MOST  
EXPENSIVE ART**

IAN SWANKIE

3 July 2019

Lowther Pavilion, Lytham St Annes, FY8 5QQ

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[www.theartsocietyfylde.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyfylde.org.uk)

Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

# WHERE LEONARDO MEETS PICASSO THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE ART

Although we are now at the end of the 2018/9 season, the last few weeks have seen a great deal of activity for many Members of The Arts Society Fylde: a common theme has been a remarkable range of discussions about the relationship between art, value and money. Several Members were part of the recording of The Antiques Roadshow at Lytham Hall (two editions, currently scheduled for broadcast in November 2019 and no doubt with the usual mix of reassurance, disappointment and elation). Those Members who were at the Study Day on 13 June heard Mark Hill speak about how the antiques market changes as tastes change, with the inevitable effect on values and prices.

And that all links nicely with today's lecture, when we welcome back Ian Swankie. He last spoke to us in July 2016 when he ended that season with a particularly interesting lecture on the life and work of Grayson Perry - "Pots and Frocks". This time, Ian is speaking about how the top end of the art market has flourished in the last few years with collectors prepared to pay astonishing amounts to own a modern masterpiece. He will look at works that have sold for over \$100 million - which is an excuse to examine some beautiful and varied art. Ian will include Picasso, Cezanne, Rembrandt, Leonardo, Modigliani, Klimt, Bacon, Gauguin and others. All held together - as he says - by the common thread of their extraordinary value.

Ian offers us a look at the buyers and the sellers, the stories behind the works, the reasons for their changing hands - and he has promised that he will try to answer the question "Are they really worth hundreds of millions of pounds?"

Answers, on a postcard, to . . . . .

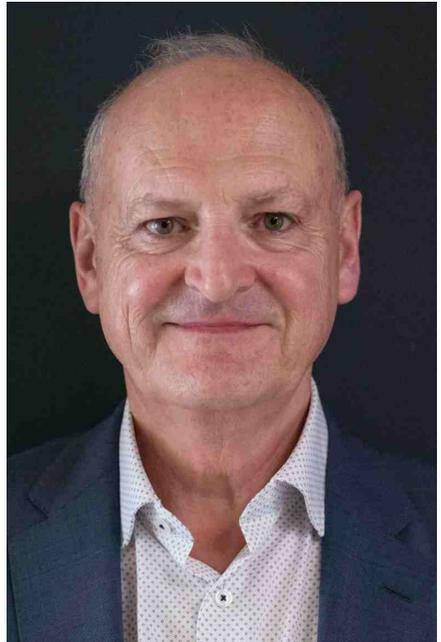


# IAN SWANKIE

Ian Swankie is a Londoner with a passion for art and architecture. He is an official guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Guildhall Art Gallery and St Paul's Cathedral and gives regular tours at each venue. He is also a qualified and active freelance London guide and gives regular tours for various corporations and organisations.

Six years ago, he established a weekly independent art lecture group in his home town of Richmond in West London and speaks on a variety of subjects.

He is an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars.



## SUGGESTED FURTHER STUDY

*The Last Leonardo*, Ben Lewis, Collins, 2019 (a study of the loss and rediscovery - if indeed it is - of Leonardo's *Salvator Mundi*, sold at auction in 2017 for \$450m).

*The Price of Everything*, 2018, 98 minutes (documentary about collectors, dealers, auctioneers and artists), directed by Nathaniel Kahn.

Cover: Paul Gauguin (1848-1903), "When will you marry?", 1892, c\$300m (2015), private collection

Facing page: Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), *Salvator Mundi*, c.1500, \$450m (2017), private collection

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), *Dr Gachet*, 1890, \$82.5m (1990), private collection

# VOTE OF THANKS - Gerry Corless

## Volunteers

Volunteers from the Society willingly take on a number of additional tasks, with support from the Friends of Lowther Pavilion.

If you would like to help, please speak to any of the volunteers working on an activity that you would like to support or feel free to contact Rita Calvert on 01253 735377.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who help in the work of The Arts Society Fylde.

### Greeting and Reception

Celia Aucott, Gerry Corless,  
Bernard Davies, Pam Foster,  
Barbara Kinner,  
Kirsteen McGlashan-Hansen

### Visitors

Alicia Grant

### Raffle

Christine Cockburn, Lesley Jarvis

### Membership and Payments

Olga Depledge, Christina McHugh,  
Jean Holland, Denise Malpas

### Lecture Leaflet

Tony Depledge

### Refreshments

Rita Calvert with volunteers from  
the Friends of Lowther Pavilion

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## NEXT LECTURE - please note the date!

### Wednesday 4 September 2019

At the Lowther Pavilion Theatre at 2pm  
In the year in which the Grand Theatre Blackpool  
- a Matcham gem - celebrates its first 125 years,  
Simon Rees will speak on *Frank Matcham's Masterpieces:  
theatre design and architecture in Britain.*

