



ADOLPHE VALETTE - MANCHESTER IMPRESSIONIST

JULIA MARWOOD

The Arts Society Fylde
Lowther Pavilion Theatre and by Zoom
4 May 2022 at 2.00pm

It would be a bit of an exaggeration to say that Pierre Adolphe Valette (1876-1942) is exactly the first name that comes to mind when the conversation turns to the painters we call “The Impressionists”. But we should not downplay his work, nor his influence. Valette was L S Lowry’s tutor at the Manchester Municipal School of Art and Lowry said, “I can’t overestimate the effect on me at that time, of the coming into this drab city of Adolph Valette, full of the French Impressionists, aware of everything that was going on in Paris. He had a freshness and a breadth of experience that exhilarated his students.” With more than a touch of French elegance, Valette depicted modern life in wet and dirty “Cottonopolis”, creating a sense of timeless beauty. On his return to France in 1928, he left behind an impressive body of work (the most important collection of which is held by the Manchester Art Gallery) and in France he continued to produce light-filled, radiant works. Julia Marwood will explore the life and work of an artist whose fine work and inspirational teaching are, as she will show, finally receiving the recognition they deserve.

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It’s at this point in our lecture notes that we usually speak of welcoming someone on a first (or subsequent) visit to The Arts Society Fylde; although we have not met Julia Marwood as a lecturer before, she grew up in Lytham St Annes, went to Queen Mary School and taught German for many years at Blackpool and the Fylde College, leaving the area only in 2003 – so, more “welcome home” than “welcome” or “welcome back”!

Julia says that she discovered art through the work of Gustav Klimt while teaching English in Austria. After taking a Master’s in Teaching English at the University of Manchester and teaching international students there, she became a tour guide at Manchester Art Gallery and knew at once that this was what she really wanted to do: “spending every spare moment learning about art history”, she says. She left language teaching in 2018 and since then has enjoyed sharing her passion for art as a speaker for many groups. Julia has lectured for The Arts Society since 2020, specialising in Scottish art from 1880 and in the art of Manchester. Scotland is, apparently, a favourite family destination and Julia joins us after a trip to Barra in the footsteps of S J Peploe, to Bute where Leslie Hunter was born and to Glasgow to research more about Joan Eardley. Julia Marwood continues to be a guide at the Manchester Art Gallery – she assures us that her “passion for the art of Manchester” is undiminished: good news indeed!



FURTHER INFORMATION AND STUDY

Cecilia Lyon, *Adolphe Valette and LS Lowry*, Prose Book Publishing, 2020

Image: Pierre Adolphe Valette, self-portrait, 1912, Manchester Art Galley (public domain)