

VOTE OF THANKS - Allan Foster

And thanks also to . . .

. . . the members of the Society who help at our meetings.

For this lecture, the volunteer Members include:

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Allan Foster, Tony Depledge,

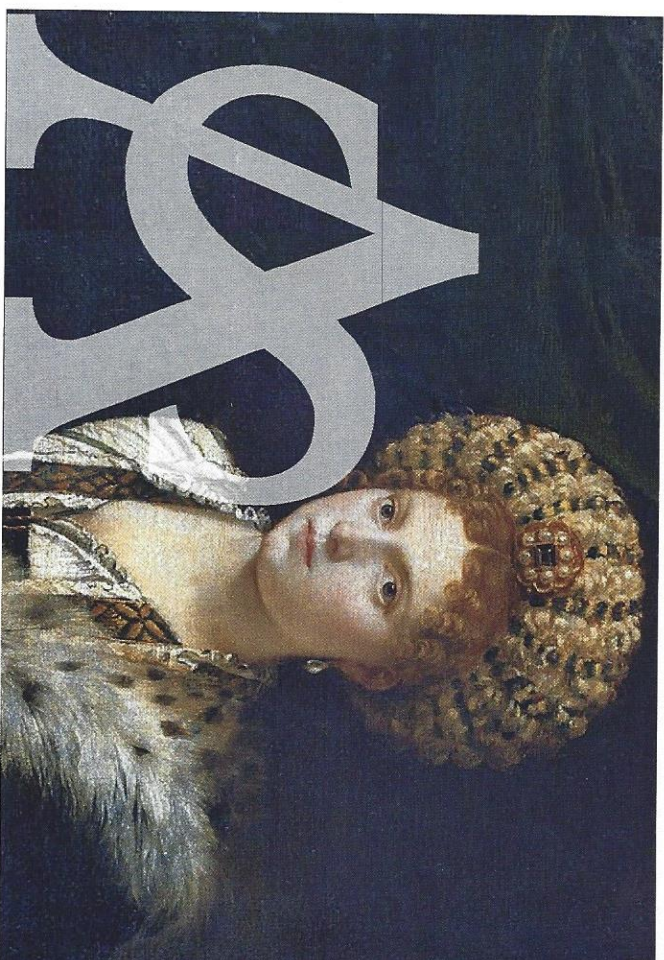
Our lectures and meetings would not be possible without the willing assistance of our many volunteers. If you would like to help, please speak to any of the volunteers working on an activity that you would like to support or feel free to contact Rita Calvert on 01253 735377.

NEXT LECTURE

Wednesday 4 April 2018

Kevin Karney on *Telling the Time through the Ages*

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**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
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**THE LIFE AND WORK OF
ISABELLA D'ESTE
SARAH DUNANT**

7 March 2018

St Annes United Reformed Church Hall, FY8 2AE

www.theartsocietyfylde.org.uk

Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

THE LIFE AND WORK OF ISABELLA D'ESTE

Isabella d'Este (1474-1539), Marchesa of Mantua and sometimes referred to as "The First Lady of the Renaissance", was a powerful, well-educated political figure, humanitarian, patron of the arts—and mother of eight children: a remarkable woman who richly deserves the focus of today's lecture.

Either by birth or marriage, Isabella d'Este was related to virtually every ruling family in Italy (including her sister-in-law, Lucrezia Borgia). A child of the Duke of Ferrara, she benefited from her parents' view that their daughters should have the same education as their sons.

In 1490 she married Francesco Gonzaga of Mantua, where she became the patron of painters such as Mantegna, Titian and Leonardo da Vinci and corresponded with a variety of prominent figures across Italy, now included in the 12000 of her letters held in the state archives in Mantua.



Cover: Isabella d'Este, 1534-1536, Titian (c.1488-1576), Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

This page: Gonzaga Court, Andrea Mantegna (c.1431-1506), fresco, Camera degli Sposi, Palazzo Ducale, Mantua

SARAH DUNANT

Novelist, broadcaster and critic Sarah Dunant was educated at Godolphin and Latymer School in Hammersmith, London, before reading History at Newnham College, Cambridge.

She began working as a producer for BBC Radio in 1974 and is a former presenter on BBC Radio's 'Woman's Hour', 'Kaleidoscope' and 'Night Waves'. For BBC Television she worked on 'The Late Show' which included, until 1997, the annual broadcast of the Booker Prize for Fiction ceremony. She is the author of 13 novels and is the creator of private investigator Hannah Wolfe, featured in *Birth Marks* (1991), *Fatlands* (1993, winner of a Crime Writers' Association Macallan Silver Dagger for Fiction) and *Under My Skin* (1995). Sarah taught renaissance studies at Washington University, St Louis, is a visiting tutor on the MA in creative writing at Oxford Brookes and has lectured around the world at festivals and conferences. Her last five novels have been set within the Italian Renaissance. Her latest, *In the Name of the Family* (2017), completes the story of the Borgia family and the remarkable period of Italian history in which they lived. Isabella d'Este features in the novel.

Sarah Dunant lives in London and Florence.

SUGGESTED FURTHER INFORMATION

Isabella D'Este: Marchioness of Mantua, Julia Cartwright, (1905, reissued 2002, University Press of the Pacific

In the Name of the Family, Sarah Dunant, (Virago, 2018)

Sarah Dunant's podcasts on history are available on the BBC website (search "When Greeks flew kites").

*Footnote: Henry Ford, 1921 "History is bunk. What difference does it make how many times the ancient Greeks flew their kites?"

