

## ART HISTORY 2 : 2020

During this strange year, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, we met together at the community centre only in January and February, with two national lockdowns - plus strict rules on meetings between them - preventing all of us from gathering together again. However, we continued with both of our study programmes through the year with presentations circulated via email on the days when we would normally meet each month; and we also had zoom meetings on those days which took the place of our coffee breaks between presentations when we could chat generally about anything at all.

We had decided to study **Italian Renaissance artists (c1300-1600)** for our main study programme, followed by **Painting the Sea: Marine Art and Seascapes** during our autumn study programme. During Film month in August, members had a choice of two online videos to watch, the first, on the Medici family, linked with the main study programme; the second on marine art linked with the autumn study programme.

We began our main study programmes with a presentation on *The Decorative Art of the Renaissance* which distinguished decorative art from the fine arts on which the rest of our presentations would focus, each considering the work of a single artist, and to illustrate how the most successful Renaissance artists were able to work across different media to carry out commissions from their patrons. We looked at a very wide range of decorative art from a variety of categories.

The artists we studied were: *Lorenzo Ghiberti* (1378-1455), *Fra Filippo Lippi* (ca. 1406-1469), *Giovanni Bellini* (1430-1516), *Sandro Botticelli* (1445-1510), *Leonardo Da Vinci* (1452-1519), *Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni* (1475 – 1564), *Lorenzo Lotto* (1480 – 1556/57), *Raffaello Sanzio, aka Raphael* (1483 – 1520), *Antonio Allegri da Correggio* (1489 –1534), *Jacopo Tintoretto* (1518 – 1594) and *Giovanni Battista Moroni* (c1521 – 1578).

During our autumn programme, the artists we studied were: *Caspar David Friedrich* (1774 – 1840), *J.W.M. Turner* (1775 – 1851), *Impressionists by the Sea* (1850 – 1900), *W.L. Wyllie* (1851 – 1931) *Robert Borlase Smart* (1881 – 1947) and *Robert Wyland* (1956).

Our usual Christmas 2020 meeting did not happen, of course. Instead, we met on zoom, but we hope to be able to have our usual Christmas meeting in 2021.