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NADFAS Education

List of Artists' Anniversaries

This is a list of the anniversaries of the births and deaths of notable decorative and fine arts practitioners. This list is designed as an aid to planning your society's programme. It can be used in conjunction with the Exhibitions List, the NADFAS Timeline and the NADFAS Directory of Lecturers.

As with any other document of its kind, the List is selective but do tell us if we have missed an artist or personality whose anniversary you think is significant.

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2009

Francis Bacon Irish Expressionist Painter
(1909-1992) 100th anniversary of his birth

Born in Dublin, the son of a racehorse trainer, he had no formal art training, later claiming that intuition was the key to painting. From 1925 he worked in London as an interior decorator and began to draw and paint in watercolour encouraged by his friend the artist Roy De Maistre. It was not until 1945 that his *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* brought him fame and notoriety.

His work draws from virtually the whole spectrum of art ranging from old masters such as Rembrandt and Velázquez to Degas, Van Gogh and Picasso. From the 1950s to his death he was widely regarded as the greatest modern Irish painter.

Matthew Boulton Manufacturer
(1728-1809) 200th anniversary of his death

Boulton dominated silver making in Birmingham during the last thirty years of the 18th century. Working in solid silver, Boulton turned for inspiration to the vases in the famous collection of Sir William Hamilton, and to *Original Designs* by the contemporary Italian designer Giovanni Battista Piranesi. Boulton also obtained designs from leading architects of the time, such as Sir William Chambers, Robert Adam, and James Wyatt. New techniques and classical moulds were adopted to make expensive ornaments for the nobility and cheaper versions for the middle class.

His home, Soho House was once a regular meeting place for some of the greatest minds of the 18th century, James Watt, Erasmus Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood and Joseph Priestly. They were collectively known as the Lunar Society; they discussed ideas and presented discoveries that continue to affect our lives today.

The Assay Office and hallmarking helped Matthew Boulton to achieve his ambition to become a great silversmith and to earn Birmingham a reputation for style, taste, fashion and quality. Some of his work can now be seen and admired in the silver collection of Birmingham Assay Office.

Annibale Carracci Italian Baroque Painter
(1560-1609) 400th anniversary of his death

Born in Bologna, together with his brother Agostino and his cousin Ludovico, he was part of the famous Carracci family of Bolognese artists. In about 1580 under the influence of Northern Italian artists such as Correggio, Veronese and Passarotti, he broke away from the then dominant Mannerist style towards a more realist style which stressed spontaneity rather than refinement.

In 1582 together with his brother and cousin, he founded the Accademia dei Desiderosi (later renamed Accademia degli Incamminati) an art school which taught drawing after nature and the antique. The influence of the Accademia was huge and resulted in Bolognese painters gaining a pre-eminent position in the arts for the first time.

Between 1597 and 1601, he painted the fresco 'Loves of the Gods' on the ceiling of the Galleria Farnese in Rome – the most important work of its kind since those painted in

the Sistine Chapel almost a century earlier. Annibale also produced a number of important altarpieces and devotional works. However, in 1605 he had an apoplectic attack, and produced very little work during the final four years of his life.

Samuel Cooper
(1609-1672)

British portrait miniaturist
400th anniversary of his birth

Together with his brother Alexander, Samuel Cooper was a pupil in London of his uncle John Hoskins, the principal miniaturist to King Charles I. Cooper made his name with a portrait of Sir Anthony van Dyck's mistress *Margaret Lemon* (1635) which displayed in miniature characteristics of van Dyck's own portraits. Although he started his career in Royalist circles, Cooper found many sitters among Parliamentarians during the Civil War and the Commonwealth, and his single most famous portrait is of Oliver Cromwell. After the Restoration, Cooper returned to depicting royalty with Charles II and his court.

Hugh Welch Diamond
(1809-1886)

English photographer pioneer
200th anniversary of his birth

Hugh Welch Diamond was one of the earliest photographers, and made a major contribution to the progress of the craft. A doctor by profession, he opened a private practice in Soho, London, and then decided to specialise in the treatment of mental patients, being appointed to the Surrey County Asylum. He used photography to treat mental disorders; some of his many calotypes depicting the expressions of people suffering from mental disorders are particularly moving. These were used not only for record purposes, but also, he claimed in the treatment of patients, although there is little evidence of success.

Perhaps it is for his attempts to popularize photography and to lessen its mystique that Diamond is best remembered. He was one of the founders of the Photographic Society, was later its Secretary and also became the editor of the *Photographic Journal*. In 1867, the Photographic Society awarded its Medal in recognition of "his long and successful labours as one of the principal pioneers of the photographic art and of his continuing endeavours for its advancement."

Giovanni Battista Gaulli
(1639 - 1709)

Italian Baroque Painter
300th anniversary of his death

Giovanni Battista Gaulli, also known as Baciccio, was influenced early on by Peter Paul Rubens and Anthony Van Dyck. His family was killed by the plague in 1657 and afterwards, Baciccio moved to Rome and worked for Gian Lorenzo Bernini. From 1672 to 1683, Baciccio worked with Bernini on the ceiling of the Il Gesu church in Rome. He also created altarpieces and mythological scenes. He was a Papal favourite and seven popes commissioned portraits by him.

Meindert Hobbema
(1638 - 1709)

Dutch painter
300th anniversary of his death

Born in Amsterdam as Meindert Lubbertszoon, Hobbema studied under Jacob van Ruisdael and painted his landscapes in a similar technique. Hobbema did not receive a

lot of attention or praise during his career, mainly as he painted a limited range of subjects, mostly mill ponds or trees around a pool. Because his paintings did not sell, Hobbema was forced to take on a different occupation as a wine gauger with the Amsterdam customs and excise, and his work gradually declined as from that point on. His greatest piece is said to be *The Avenue at Middelharnis* which can be seen at the National Gallery, London.

Norman Lewis African-American abstract expressionist painter
(1909-1979) 100th anniversary of his birth

Born in New York, Lewis attended art workshops in Harlem where he learned about the ideas of Alain Locke, namely that art should derive from African themes and aesthetics. Beginning his career with an interest in abstract figuration, Lewis became interested in modernism. His paintings focus on conceptual expression, often referring to African American settings and culture. In the 1960s, Lewis founded the Spiral Group, a group of African American artists who sought to contribute to the civil rights movement through their art.

Dr John Murray Scottish Photographer
(1809 - 1898) 200th anniversary of his birth

John Murray trained as a doctor and encountered photography while in the Medical Service of the Army of the East India Company. He became interested in Indian architecture and photographed many famous buildings in and around Agra in Uttar Pradesh during the forty years that he lived there. Murray used a large wooden camera and glass and waxed paper negatives.

Bernt Notke German Woodcarver and Sculptor
(c.1435 - 1509) 500th anniversary of his death

Born in Lassan in circa 1435, Bernt Notke carried out most of his work in Lübeck and was regarded as one of the most significant painters and sculptors of his time. His *Danse Macabre* in St. Mary's in Lübeck was destroyed in an allied bombing raid of the town during the second world war but his Triumphant Cross, at 17 metres the largest in the world, survived and can be found at Lübeck Cathedral.

Bernard Palissy French potter and inventor of rustic ware
(1509-1590) 500th anniversary of his birth

Palissy started his working life as an apprentice to his father, a glass painter in Agen. At the end of his apprenticeship he became a travelling workman, journeying through France, the Low Countries, and the areas now known as Germany and Italy, painting portraits as well as glass ware and practising land-surveying. On his travels, Palissy saw and became fascinated by fine white Chinese pottery and set about trying to master the techniques necessary to produce it. For sixteen years he was unsuccessful, often reducing his family to abject poverty to pay for the wood to fuel his furnace. However, while Palissy never discovered the secret of Chinese porcelain, he did produce a new type of pottery later known as rustic ware which attracted the patronage of an influential noble, the Constable de Montmorency, and also Catherine de Medici.

Montmorency's patronage took the Protestant Palissy to the French court and protected him for many years from ecclesiastical persecution. In 1588, however, Palissy could not be protected any longer and he was imprisoned in the Bastille where he died in the dungeons in 1590. His pottery works included figurines, dishes and plaques which were decorated with mythological subjects or, often, depictions of animals and plants, displaying his keen interest in natural history; Palissy was one of the first Europeans to correctly deduce the origin of fossils.

Andrea Pozzo Italian Baroque Painter
(1642 - 1709) 300th anniversary of his death

After studying under an unknown master, Andrea Pozzo traveled to Milan and became a Jesuit. Subsequently, he began creating religious works, notably his frescoes for the church of San Francisco Saverio in Modovi which demonstrated his mastery of trompe d'oeil. This technique was used again in the ceiling of the Church of Sant'Ignazio. Pozzo designed the tomb of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit order, in 1695. For the remainder of his career, he worked as a sculptor, painter and architect in Italy and Vienna.

George Richmond British painter
(1809 - 1896) 200th anniversary of his birth

George Richmond hailed from a family of painters, initially studying under his father Thomas. He then attended the Royal Academy where he made the acquaintance of Samuel Palmer. Together, they formed a group called the Ancients, who were avid followers of William Blake. Around 1830, Richmond abandoned the poetic style of painting that Blake was known for and turned to portraiture. He was very successful in this genre, creating approximately 2,500 portraits.

Sir William Russell Flint British painter
(1880 - 1969) 50th anniversary of his death

Sir William Russell Flint was initially trained as a lithographer. He worked for some time as book illustrator. He is famous for his distinctive watercolours, often peopled by elegant, somewhat exotic female nudes.

Daniele da Volterra Italian Mannerist Painter
(1509 - 1566) 500th anniversary of his birth

Painter and sculptor Daniele Ricciarelli was born in Volterra, Italy, thus acquiring his more popular name, Daniele da Volterra. It is assumed that he trained in Siena, before moving to Rome in 1565. Here, he was befriended by Michelangelo who helped him increase his commissions and also created preparatory drawings for Daniele's work. His most powerful work is the fresco of the Deposition, located in the Cappella Orsini in Saint Trinita dei Monti. This work was highly admired and copied by many great artists who studied in Rome, including Domenichino and Rubens. Daniele is also recognized for his bust of Michelangelo which was created from the death mask. He was forced by the Counter-Reformation to paint draperies over Michelangelo's nude figures in the Last Judgement.

2010

Jacopo Bassano Italian Mannerist Painter
(1510 - 1592) 500th anniversary of his birth

Jacopo Bassano was initially educated by his father in the town of Bassano. He later studied in Venice where he was taught by various unknown teachers and copied the works of Titian. Bassano executed many engravings in the style of Durer, Raphael, and Parmigianino. He excelled in realist scenes of farm life and nature and used religious and philosophical subjects when painting genre scenes and landscapes. Bassano established a workshop which his four sons continued after his death.

Sandro Botticelli Italian painter of the Florentine School
(1445 - 1510) 500th anniversary of his death

Born in Florence as Alessandro di Mariano dei Filipepi, Botticelli was given his nickname, "little barrel" by his brother and father figure Giovanni. Botticelli studied under Fra Lippo Lippi from 1458 to 1467. In 1480, he began working on the Sistine Chapel frescoes. Although his primary subjects were allegorical and mythological interpretations, he also painted portraits and illustrated Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Two of Botticelli's most renowned works are *The Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*.

Adam Elsheimer German painter and draftsman
(1578 - 1610) 400th anniversary of his death

Adam Elsheimer was born in Germany and grew up with the influence of the local painter, Gillis van Coninxloo. He moved to Rome in 1600 where he abandoned his early Mannerist tendencies for a more simplistic approach. He admired the light and shadow technique of creating mood that was popularized by Caravaggio. Elsheimer painted on a small-scale, mostly on copper. He invented a distinct variety of landscape that served as part of the composition not just background. After making bad business decisions and partnering with a rich Dutch etcher, Elsheimer became overwhelmed with his misfortune and landed in debtor's prison where he died in 1610.

William Holman Hunt English painter of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
(1827 - 1910) 100th anniversary of his death

Born in London, William Holman Hunt entered the Royal Academy School in 1844 where he met Rossetti and Millais and together they founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Although Hunt's detailed and symbolist works fit in well with the aims of the movement, his religion kept him from becoming absorbed with the London art scene. He took a two-year trip through Egypt and the Holy Land, resulting in works showing realistic biblical images. After his wife died during childbirth in 1866, Hunt married her sister (which was illegal at the time). Before his death, he composed his memoirs which are now an integral document for the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

William McTaggart Scottish painter
(1835 - 1910) 100th anniversary of his death

William McTaggart was the leading Scottish landscape painter of his time. He was nicknamed "The Scottish Impressionist" because of his mastery of atmosphere and light. However, the dramatic sense of his work is more closely reminiscent of Constable's paintings.

Felix Nadar French photographer
(1820 - 1910) 100th anniversary of his death

Felix Nadar was the pseudonym of Gaspard-Felix Tournachon. He was a caricaturist, photographer, journalist and novelist. He opened his first photography studio in 1854 where he created portraits of his influential friends and acquaintances that included well-known writers, artists, politicians, actors, scholars and other celebrities. His subjects included Alexandre Dumas, Sarah Bernhardt, Ernest Shackleton and Alexander III of Russia and he photographed Victor Hugo on his deathbed. He was one of the first photographers to use artificial light and this interest in technology led him to build, in 1863, a huge hot air balloon named *Le Géant (The Giant)* which inspired Jules Verne's *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. Nadar and Jules Verne later founded *The Society for the Encouragement of Aerial Locomotion by Means of Heavier Than Air Machines*.

Henri Rousseau French Post-Impressionist painter
(1844 - 1910) 100th anniversary of his death

Henri Rousseau spent his life working as a toll collector, a clerk, and a soldier. In 1893, he retired and began painting to occupy his time. Although he was self-taught, his work retained a sophisticated sense of colour and unique composition. In the 1880s, Rousseau began to exhibit his paintings but was never completely taken seriously by critics and his colleagues. After his death, Rousseau's work influenced the Surrealist movement. His works are displayed in many of the world's major museums including the Hermitage, the Getty and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim and Museum of Modern Art. One of Rousseau's most famous works *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)* is on display at the National Gallery, London.

Dorothea Tanning American Surrealist painter
(1910 -) 100th anniversary of her birth

Dorothea Tanning was born in Galesburg, Illinois in 1910. After studying art in Chicago, she moved to New York where she began painting as a professional after meeting a group of French surrealist painters. That group included Max Ernst, whom Tanning married in 1946 and very soon the couple settled in France where they lived for many years. After Ernst's death in 1976, Tanning returned to New York where she embarked upon a new and ambitious series of paintings, increasing both the scale and the scope of her work. In 1999, at the age of 89, Tanning exhibited a new series of paintings at the Boston University art gallery and in 2001 her work was included in the *Surrealism: Desire Unbound* exhibition which showed at the Tate Modern, London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. In addition to her activities as a painter, printmaker, and sculptor, Tanning has designed sets and costumes for ballet and

theatre in New York, London and Paris. Her *Hotel du Pavot*, an installation in cloth sculpture, is in the permanent collection of the Beaubourg Museum in Paris.

Diego Velázquez Spanish painter
(1599 - 1660) 400th anniversary of his death

Born into a prominent family as Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velázquez, he originally studied philosophy and language to become a lawyer like his father. However, his talent for drawing encouraged his career in art and he studied under Herrera and Pacheco. After marrying the latter's daughter in 1618, Velázquez moved to Madrid and abandoned his subdued domestic subjects for a more colour palette that he applied to portraiture. He was the leading court painter for the Spanish nobility and his works were the subject of a major National Gallery exhibition in 2006.

Johan Zoffany German painter
(1733 - 1810) 200th anniversary of his death

Born as Johannes Josephus Zauffaly in Germany, he was first apprenticed as a pupil of Francesco Solimena before travelling to Italy and adopting the Rococo style. In 1761, he moved to England and began painting small group scenes. He was commissioned by various patrons to paint scenes of actors on stage that were later engraved in mezzotint. King George III was a patron of Zoffany, and nominated him to the Royal Academy in 1769.

2011

KING JAMES BIBLE

(1611)

The Authorized King James Version is an English translation of the Christian Bible begun in 1604 and first published in 1611 by the Church of England. In January 1604, King James I of England convened the Hampton Court Conference where a new English version was conceived. The translation was by 47 scholars, all of whom were members of the Church of England.

By the first half of the 18th Century, the *Authorized Version* was effectively unchallenged as the sole English translation in current use in Protestant churches. Over the course of the 18th Century, the *Authorized Version* supplanted the *Latin Vulgate* as the standard version of scripture for English speaking scholars.

LOUISE BOURGEOIS Sculptor famous for her giant spiders
(1911 -) 100th anniversary of her birth

Born in France, Bourgeois trained at the Ecole de Louvre and Academie des Beaux-Arts. She emigrated to the US in 1938 and worked as an engraver and painter but in the 1940s turned to sculpture and has since worked in many materials, modelling and carving and creating installations. She was greatly influenced by Surrealist artists who immigrated from Europe to the US after the Second World War. Her childhood is a dominant theme in her work. The French pavilion at the Venice Biennale hosted a major solo exhibition of her work in 1992 and Tate Modern staged one in 2007. Bourgeois was the first artist commissioned to fill the Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern, in 1999, and her installation included one of the giant spiders for which she has become well-known. Bourgeois's work can be seen in collections of major museums throughout the world.

CAMDEN TOWN GROUP

(1911 is the centenary of the group's formation)

A group of young artists, followers of Walter Sickert, which was based in Bloomsbury. The group's members included Gore, Ginner, Augustus John, Gilman, Wyndham Lewis, Robert Bevan, Lucien Pissarro, Henry Lamb, and Walter Sickert himself. Very different in their styles and aims but united in a dislike of romantic idealisation, the group looked clearly and precisely at people and things in everyday life. They gave colour a much more important role than it had previously had in British art. They held several large exhibitions and there was a recent retrospective at Somerset House. Individual works are easy to see in galleries nationwide.

FRANCIS DANBY Painter, member of the Bristol School
(1793 – 1861) 150th anniversary of his death

Irish-born painter who worked in Bristol, Exmouth and London. Bristol in the early 19th century had a significant school of painting and Francis Danby was the most important

and influential of these artists, producing narrative, maritime and imaginary landscape paintings of great distinction. Other artists in the School included Samuel Jackson, Nicholas Pocock, Rolinda Sharples and Edward Bird. In 1825, Sir Thomas Lawrence purchased Danby's *Sunset at Sea after a Storm*. Danby was forced to live abroad for some time as his financial affairs were chaotic, but he returned to Britain to spend his last years in Exmouth.

JEAN DUVET Goldsmith and metal worker
(1485 – 1561) 450th anniversary of his death

Goldsmith and Master of the Dijon Guild, Duvet was born in Dijon but worked mostly in Langres as a designer of medals, fortifications and royal gateways. Sadly, none of his metalwork survives. He was also an engraver and his most famous work, *24 Prints of The Apocalypse*, was published in Lyon in the year of his death.

JOHN DUNCAN FERGUSSON Scottish Colourist
(1874 – 1961) 50th anniversary of his death

Born in Leith, Edinburgh, Fergusson gave up medical studies to become a painter. He was a war artist during the First World War, producing a series of paintings of Portsmouth docks. With Samuel Peploe, Leslie Hunter and Francis Cadell, Fergusson formed the Scottish Colourists, a group which introduced the intense colour of the French Fauve movement into Britain. Works can be seen at the JD Fergusson Gallery in Perth, in many other Scottish art galleries and also the Tate Galleries.

JOANNES FYT Flemish animal painter and etcher
(1611 – 1661) 400th anniversary of his birth

Influential Flemish animal painter and etcher famous for depictions of trophies of the hunt. He was the most important assistant and apprentice of Frans Snyders, but later turned from the Baroque manner of Snyders to a more contemplative mode. Work can be seen at the National Gallery, London.

MARCUS GHEERAERTS, THE YOUNGER Court Painter
(1561 – 1635) 450th anniversary of his birth

Leading artist of the Elizabethan and Jacobean court, painting formal 'heraldic' costume pieces among them the famous 'Ditchling' portrait of Elizabeth I (National Portrait Gallery, London). Also painted a portrait of Anne of Denmark which is at Woburn Abbey. Tate Britain held an exhibition of his work in 2002.

RENATO GUTTUSO Italian painter and set-designer
(1911 – 1987) 100th anniversary of his birth

An Italian painter from Sicily, he used his art to protest against Fascism and to make Communist statements on Italian issues. Worked largely in a realistic manner; generally

his paintings are energetic and incisive. Guttuso also designed for the theatre (including sets and costumes for *Histoire du Soldat*, Rome, 1940) and illustrated books.

[Compare with Mario Sironi, who also has an anniversary in 2011]

JOSEF HERMAN
(1911 – 2000)

Painter of working-class life
100th anniversary of his birth

Born in Warsaw, in 1938 moved to Brussels, and was influenced by the Belgian expressionists. In 1940 he moved to Glasgow and in 1944 to a Welsh mining village. His studies of miners and their families developed his technique and his expressionist powers and made him one of the most discussed artists of the 1950s. Herman's range is broad: still life and portraits mingle with working people and the mother and child motif, and with an abiding passion for landscape and townscape.

ROGER HILTON
(1911 – 1975)

St Ives School painter
100th anniversary of his birth

His career began as a figurative artist, yet in the 1950's he became involved in the most important school of British abstraction, which emerged from St Ives, Cornwall. Along with Hilton, the St Ives School included the artists Ben Nicholson, Peter Lanyon, Patrick Heron, Barbara Hepworth and Terry Frost.

Hilton's painting went in and out of figuration and abstraction during his later years in the 1970s, when he produced a well-documented period of work that is known for its colourful, fresh qualities alongside its humour, rudeness and poignancy of an artist struggling with deteriorating health.

A major retrospective of Roger Hilton was exhibited at the Hayward Gallery, London, in 1993, followed by a drawing survey at the Tate Gallery St Ives in 1997. His work is in numerous international public collections including the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, and the Fogg Art Gallery at Harvard.

ROBERTO MATTA ECHAURREN
(1911 - 2002)

Surrealist painter
100th anniversary of his birth

Usually known as Matta, he was one of Chile's best-known painters and a seminal figure in 20th century art. Born in Santiago, he left for Europe where he travelled widely before settling in Paris in 1933. During his time there he met artists such as René Magritte, Salvador Dalí, André Breton and Le Corbusier. Breton introduced him to the leading members of the Paris Surrealist movement such as Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp, and invited him to join the movement. At the outbreak of the second world war, an influential group of surrealists, including Matta, Max Ernst, André Masson, Wilfredo Lam and Yves Tanguy, found refuge in the United States and Matta remained there until 1948.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the disturbing state of world politics found reflection in Matta's work, with the canvases becoming busy with images of electrical machinery and distressed figures. He described his works as "psychological morphologies". Throughout his life, Matta worked with many different types of media, including ceramic, tapestry, photography and video production.

Matta's work can be seen at Tate Modern. His work divided the critics: Clement Greenberg called him "the prince of comic-strippers", while the poet and surrealist Patrick Waldberg, wrote: "And finally, there was Matta ... whose equal surrealism was never to find again".

Matta was the father of the artist Gordon Matta-Clark (1943-78), whose interest was in the built structures of the urban environment.

ANNA MARY ROBERTSON MOSES ('Grandma Moses')

American folk artist

(1860 – 1961)

50th anniversary of her death

A farmer and homemaker from upstate New York who became one of the most respected folk artists of the pre-World War II period, Moses (1860-1961) first came to public attention in 1940, at the age of 80, as part of a general burst of appreciation for self-taught art. She combined local lore, memory, and observation, to craft a unique folk idiom. Moses never received formal training in art and did not begin to paint until she was in her late seventies. Her earliest works were embroidery, but when arthritis made it painful for her to use a needle, she turned to painting at the suggestion of her sister.

Moses was primarily a landscape painter. She was an acute observer of the nuances of season, weather, and time of day. When Moses died in 1961 at the age of 101, she had completed more than 1600 works of art over a 20-year career. She had also become a marketing phenomenon, with greeting cards by the millions, best-selling books, and everything from fabric to collector plates, that brought her into more American homes than almost any other artist.

LEONID PASTERNAK

(1861 – 1945)

Russian Impressionist painter

150th anniversary of his birth

Born in Odessa, he studied at Moscow University, first at the Medical Department, then at the Department of Law. Eventually he decided to devote his life to art and entered the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Munich from which he graduated in 1887. He returned to Russia, and in 1889 started a career as a full-time painter.

His first exhibited painting was bought by Pavel Tretyakov, the most important art sponsor in Russia of the time. He soon became a popular painter, a member of the so called Polenov circle, that included Valentin Serov, Isaac Levitan, Mikhail Nesterov, Konstantin Korovin. In 1889 he married the pianist Rosa Kaufman, and the same year settled in Moscow. The first born (1890) among the four children the couple had is the author and poet Boris Pasternak.

Leonid Pasternak was one of the first Russian painters who labelled himself an Impressionist. He was a friend of Leo Tolstoy, illustrating his novels *War and Peace* and *Resurrection*. In 1938, he took refuge from the Nazis and emigrated to Great Britain. He died in Oxford on 31 May 1945.

FREDERIC REMINGTON

(1861 – 1909)

Artist of the American West

150th anniversary of his birth

The art of Frederic Remington defined the American West during his lifetime and played a major role in creating the popular image of the West that persists today. In both painting and sculpture, he portrayed the action and drama of the West. His subjects - the military, the cowboy and the American Indian - centred on conflict. He was just 48 years old when he died but during his short life he produced more than 3,000 drawings and paintings, and 22 bronze sculptures.

The Whitney Gallery of America Art in New York has a comprehensive reconstruction of Remington's magnificent studio.

MARIO SIRONI Modernist painter, sculptor & designer
(1885 – 1961) 50th anniversary of his death

Italian Modernist artist born in Sardinia, he lived in Rome and Milan. He was active as a painter, sculptor, illustrator, and designer. His vision was always sombre and dramatic, characterized by blocky forms, stark oppositions of light and shadow, and a generally pessimistic air.

A supporter of Mussolini, he contributed a large number of cartoons—over 1700 in all—to the Fascist newspapers. As an artist closely identified with Fascism, his reputation declined dramatically in the post-World War II period. The paintings of his later years sometimes approach abstraction, resembling assemblages of archaeological fragments, or juxtaposed sketches.

[Compare with Renato Guttuso, who also has an anniversary in 2011]

GIORGIO VASARI Painter and architect for the Medici family
(1511 – 1574) 500th anniversary of his birth

Vasari was born in Arezzo, Tuscany, and was sent to Florence at the age of sixteen to continue his education. He was befriended by Michelangelo whose painting style would influence his own. Vasari's own Mannerist paintings were more admired in his lifetime than afterwards. He was consistently employed by patrons in the Medici family in Florence and Rome, and he also worked in Naples and Arezzo. Many of his pictures still exist. As an architect, Vasari was perhaps more successful than as a painter, working both in Florence and Rome.

Vasari enjoyed a high reputation during his lifetime and amassed a considerable fortune. In 1547, he built himself a fine house in Arezzo (now a museum honoring him), and spent much labour in decorating its walls and vaults with paintings. He is famous today for writing biographies of Italian artists, considered the ideological foundation of art-historical writing.

OTHER ARTISTS WITH ANNIVERSARIES IN 2011

Bartolomeo Ammanati (1511-1592) Florentine architect and sculptor

Spinello Aretino	(1373 – 1411) Italian painter
Jaime Baco	(1413 – 1461) Spanish painter
Jean Bérain	(1640 – 1711) Draughtsman, painter & engraver
George Caleb Bingham	(1811 – 1879) American Realist painter
Lancelot Blondeel	(1498 – 1561) Flemish Northern Renaissance painter
Mather Brown	(1761 – 1831) American portrait and historical painter
Louis-Leopold Boilly	(1761 – 1845) French Painter and Printmaker
Mikolojus Konstantus Ciurlionis	(1875 – 1911) Lithuanian painter and composer
Pieter Claesz	(1597 – 1661) Dutch still life painter
Antoine Coypel	(1661 – 1722) French Baroque painter
Nathaniel Dance	(1735 – 1811) English portrait painter
Alexandre-Francois Desportes	(1661 – 1740) French animal painter
Arthur Devis	(1711 – 1787) English portrait painter
Toussaint Dubreuil	(1561 – 1602) French painter
Charles Alphonse Du Fresnoy	(1611 – 1668) French painter and writer on art
Baldassare Franceschino	(1611 – 1689) Also called Volterrano. Florentine painter
John Graham	(1881 – 1961) born Ivan Dabrowsky. Russian–American painter
Carl Frederick Hill	(1849 – 1911) Swedish landscape painter
Jozef Israéls	(1824 – 1911) Dutch painter
Gerard de Lairesse	(1640 – 1711) Dutch painter
Sebastiano Mazzoni	(1611 – 1678) Italian Baroque painter
Lelio Orsi	(1511 – 1587) Italian Renaissance painter
Antonio de Pereda	(1611 – 1678) Spanish Baroque painter
Camillo Procaccini	(1561 – 1629) Italian Mannerist painter
Josef Rippl-Ronai	(1861 – 1927) Hungarian painter; also applied arts
Andrea Sacchi	(1661 – 1599) Italian Baroque painter
Johann Matthias Schulenburg	(1661 – 1747) German collector and patron
Daniel Seghers	(1590 – 1661) Flemish Baroque painter
Bartholomeus Spranger	(1546 – 1611) Flemish mannerist painter

Nadezhda Udaltsova (1886 – 1961) Russian avant-garde artist
Fritz von Uhde (1848 – 1911) German painter
Willem van de Velde, the Elder (1611 – 1693) Dutch maritime painter
Domenico Veneziano (1410 – 1461) Italian Renaissance painter

2012

FRANCESCO GUARDI
(1712 – 1793)

Italian painter
300th anniversary of his birth

A cityscape painter, he was born in Venice into a family of lesser nobility from Trentino. His father Domenico (born in 1678) and his brothers Niccolò and Gian Antonio were also painters, the latter inheriting the family workshop after the father's death in 1716. They probably all contributed as a team to some of the larger commissions later attributed to Francesco.

GARY HUME
(1962 -)

British painter
50th anniversary of his birth

Born in Tenterden, Kent, he worked as an assistant film editor before concentrating on art. He graduated from Goldsmiths College in 1988 and was part of the *Freeze* exhibition curated by Damien Hirst.

Hume's earliest notable works were his "door paintings", life-size representations of hospital doors. Hume's work was included in the 1997 *Sensation* exhibition. Hume abandoned doors in the early 1990s, turning to paintings in gloss paint on aluminum. These often take images from the media, including pictures of celebrities, and childhood with animals often depicted. Light is an important feature of Hume's work.

Hume represented Britain at the 1999 Venice Biennale, where he showed his *Water* series, a number of superimposed line drawings of women. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1996 and was made a Royal Academician in 2001. He exhibits often at the White Cube Gallery and his work is also on show at Tate Modern.

Hume is renowned for paintings distinguished by a bright palette, reduced imagery and flat areas of seductive colour. While Hume's paintings have always emphasised their luscious surfaces and simplified forms, many are infused with a melancholic beauty. They sell for a quarter of a million pounds each.

YVES KLEIN
(1928 – 1962)

Painter, noted for his monochromes
50th anniversary of his death

Born in Nice, his parents were both painters. Although Klein had painted monochromes as early as 1949 and held the first private exhibition of this work in 1950, his first public showing was the publication of the Artist's book *Yves: Peintures* in November 1954. This show, displaying orange, yellow, red, pink and blue monochromes, deeply disappointed Klein, as people went from painting to painting, linking them together as a sort of mosaic.

The next exhibition, featuring 11 identical blue canvases, used ultramarine pigment suspended in a synthetic resin 'Rhodopas'. This colour, reminiscent of the lapis lazuli used to paint the Madonna's robes in medieval paintings, was to become famous as *International Klein Blue* (IKB).

For his next exhibition, Klein removed everything in the gallery space except a large cabinet, painted every surface white, and then staged an elaborate entrance procedure for the opening night. The gallery's window was painted blue, and a blue curtain was hung in the entrance lobby, accompanied by republican guards and blue cocktails. Thanks to an enormous publicity drive, 3,000 people were forced to queue up, waiting to be let in to an empty room.

Klein's work revolved around a Zen-influenced concept he came to describe as the Void. He tried to make his audience experience a state where an idea could simultaneously be "felt" as well as "understood".

GUSTAV KLIMT Painter, member of Vienna Secession movement (1862 – 1918) 150th anniversary of his birth

An Austrian Symbolist painter and one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Secessionist movement. His major works include paintings, murals, sketches, and other art objects. Klimt's primary subject was the female body.

Klimt was born Vienna, and in 1876 was enrolled in the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts, where he studied until 1883, training as an architectural painter. Klimt began his professional career painting interior murals and ceilings in large public buildings. Klimt became one of the founding members and president of the Vienna Secessionists in 1897. He remained with the Secession until 1908. The group's goals were to provide exhibitions for unconventional young artists, to bring the best foreign artists works to Vienna, and to publish its own magazine to showcase members' work.

In 1888, Klimt received the Golden Order of Merit from Emperor Franz Josef I of Austria for his contributions to art. In the early 1890s, Klimt met Emilie Flöge, who, notwithstanding the artist's relationships with other women, was to be his companion until the end of his life. Klimt fathered at least 14 children. Beginning in the late 1890s Klimt took annual summer holidays with the Flöge family on the shores of Attersee and painted many of his landscapes there.

Klimt's work is distinguished by the gold or coloured decoration. This can be seen in *Judith I* (1901), and in *The Kiss* (1907–1908), and especially in *Danaë* (1907). One of the most common themes Klimt utilized was that of the dominant woman, the femme fatale. His mature works are characterized by a rejection of earlier naturalistic styles, and make use of symbols or symbolic elements to convey psychological ideas and emphasize the "freedom" of art from traditional culture.

Klimt was the subject of a Tate Liverpool exhibition in Summer 2008.

GABRIELE MÜNTER Expressionist painter, member of Blue Rider Group (1877 – 1962) 50th anniversary of her death

A German expressionist painter who was at the forefront of the Munich avant-garde in the early 20th century; she was born in Berlin and showed an interest in art from a young age. She was taught privately as at that time the German art academies were male-only establishments, and was well-travelled. She lived in the American Midwest for two years (1898-1900) and produced many sketches during this time. At the age of 26, Münter attended the progressive Phalanx School in Munich. There she studied

sculpture, printmaking and painting and met the School's director, Wassily Kandinsky. Kandinsky, though married, pursued Münter and by the summer of 1903 they were secretly engaged, pending his divorce. The couple remained engaged for fourteen years, then Kandinsky, who had never divorced his first wife, abandoned Münter to marry another woman. But though she deeply regretted the relationship, there is little doubt that it profoundly affected both Münter's life and artistic output.

In 1904, Münter and Kandinsky travelled through Europe and met Matisse and Rousseau; other friends included Klee and Marc. In 1911, Marc and Kandinsky founded the avant-garde expressionist group known as Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) group which Münter joined.

After the end of her relationship with Kandinsky during the first world war, Münter spent much of the 1920s travelling and in the 1930s settled in Germany. During World War II she hid Kandinsky's works and those of other members of the Blue Rider from the Nazis. The Nazi regime condemned Münter's work, like that of her modernist contemporaries, as degenerate. Though interested in abstract expressionism, Münter's works are largely figurative. Her paintings include many powerful landscapes and figure studies as well as striking still lifes.

PHILLIP JAMES de LOUTHERBOURG Landscape painter
(1740 – 1812) 200th anniversary of his death

Born in France, he came to London in 1771. He was especially known for his paintings of landscapes and marine scenes, and in the theatre for his special effects and innovative scenery designs; he worked for David Garrick. Died in Chiswick, West London.

PIERO DI COSIMO Painter of religious scenes and frescos
(1462 – 1521) 550th anniversary of his birth

He was Florentine and long time pupil of Cosimo Rosselli, working as his assistant in painting the frescos in the Sistine Chapel (begun 1481). Renowned for his fantastical imagination, his work was grounded nonetheless in observation. Of his mythologies, the most poignant perhaps is the erroneously titled *Death of Procris* (National Gallery, London) in which a faun laments the death of a nymph, whilst a hunting dog looks dolefully on. Religious paintings also featured in his output, the most important being his *Immaculate Conception* (Uffizi, Florence). Although eccentric, he was an extremely original artist, and his most celebrated pupil was Andrea del Sarto. He is thought to have died of plague.

CARL GUSTAF PILO Painter to the courts of Sweden and Denmark
(1712 – 1792) 300th anniversary of his birth

He was a Swedish-born artist and painter. Pilo worked extensively in Denmark as a painter to the Danish Court and as professor and director at the Royal Danish Academy of Art as well as in his native Sweden. He is most famous for his painting *The Coronation of Gustaf III* which was commissioned by King Gustav III of Sweden. In August 1772, Pilo accepted the Cross of the Knights of the Order of Vasa from Gustaf and swore an allegiance to Sweden. This was not well received in Denmark and Pilo

soon lost his position and was forced to flee Denmark by October 1772. He returned to Sweden and remained there until his death twenty years later.

Pilo was named Director of the Swedish Academy in 1777, but first took office in 1780 when he also received an apartment in Stockholm as part of his directorship at the Academy. He lived out his days at the Academy, both engaged in the Academy's business and in painting his masterpiece, the painting of Gustav III's coronation in Stockholm's Cathedral, which he worked on until the very end.

JACKSON POLLACK

(1912 – 1956)

Abstract Expressionist painter, noted for his drip paintings

100th anniversary of his birth

Paul Jackson Pollock was an influential American painter and a major force in the abstract expressionist movement. He was born in Cody, Wyoming in 1912, the youngest of five sons. In his early life, he experienced Native American culture and in 1930, moved to New York City, where he studied under Thomas Hart Benton influenced by his rhythmic use of paint.

He married another American painter, Lee Krasner in 1945 and they moved to what is now known as the Pollock-Krasner House and Studio in Springs on Long Island, New York. He began painting with his canvases laid out on the studio floor, and developed what was later called his 'drip' technique. Using the drip technique required paint with a fluid viscosity so Pollock turned to household paints called alkyd enamels. He used hardened brushes, sticks and even basting syringes as paint applicators. Pollock's technique of pouring and dripping paint is thought to be one of the origins of the term 'action painting'. With this technique, Pollock was able to achieve a more immediate means of creating art, the paint now literally flowing from his chosen tool onto the canvas.

In 1956 *Time* magazine dubbed Pollock "Jack the Dripper" as a result of his unique painting style. He was the subject of a biographical film entitled *Pollack* in 2000. His work is on display in Tate Modern.

THEO van RYSSELBERGHE (1862 – 1926)

Belgian Neo-Impressionist painter
150th anniversary of his birth

He was a Belgian Neo-Impressionist painter, who played an important role in the European art scene at the turn of the century and was one of the prominent co-founders of the Belgian artistic circle *Les XX*. This was a circle of young radical artists, who rebelled against the outmoded academism of that time and the prevailing artistic standards.

He discovered the pointillist technique when he saw Georges Seurat's *La Grande Jatte* at the impressionist exhibition in Paris in 1886. With others he 'imported' this style to Belgium. He abandoned realism and became an adept of pointillism. His famous portrait of Alice Sèthe (1888) in blue and gold would become a turning point in his life as he used only points to create the portrait. In that period he made many Neo-Impressionistic portraits, such as the portrait of his wife Maria and their daughter Elisabeth. After 1903, his pointillist technique, which he had used for so many years, became more relaxed and after 1910 he abandoned it completely. His strokes had become longer and he used more often vivid colours and more intense contrasts, or softened hues.

At the end of his life, he also turned to portrait sculpture, such as the *Head of André Gide*. He died in Saint-Clair on 14 December 1926 and was buried in the cemetery of Lavandou.

JAN van SCOREL Painter to the Vatican and Keeper of the
Belvedere
(1495 – 1562) 450th anniversary of his death

He was an influential Dutch painter credited with the introduction of High Italian Renaissance art to the Netherlands. He travelled through Europe, visiting Nuremberg, Austria and Rome and Venice, making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Jerusalem is depicted in many of his later works. In 1521, he was appointed painter to the Vatican and succeeded Raphael as Keeper of the Belvedere.

Van Scorel was a very educated man and skilled as an engineer and an architect, as well as an artist. He was also multi-lingual, no doubt as a result of his travels. Considered to be the leading Netherlandish Romanist, van Scorel moved back to Ghent for painting contracts.

TONY SMITH American sculptor and art theorist
(1912 – 1980) 100th anniversary of his birth

An American sculptor, visual artist, and a noted theorist on art. He first trained as an architect and in 1939 began working for Frank Lloyd Wright. He did not begin sculpting until 1956 and his first exhibitions were in 1964. He is primarily known for his influential minimalist sculpture. During the 1940s and 1950s Smith became close friends with Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and his sculpture shows their abstract influence.

[N.B. Jackson Pollock also celebrates an anniversary in 2012]

KEITH VAUGHAN British painter
(1912 – 1977) 100th anniversary of his birth

A British painter, he worked in an advertising agency until the Second World War when, as a conscientious objector, he joined the St John Ambulance, being conscripted into the Non-Combatant Corps in 1941.

Vaughan was self-taught as an artist. His first exhibitions took place during the war. He was stationed at Ashton Gifford, Wiltshire and paintings from this time include *The Wall at Ashton Gifford*, now owned by the Manchester Art Gallery.

Also during the war, Vaughan formed friendships with the painters Graham Sutherland and John Minton, with whom in 1946 he shared premises. Through these contacts he formed part of the Neo-Romantic circle of the immediate post-war period. However, Vaughan rapidly developed an idiosyncratic style, concentrating on studies of male figures, his works became increasingly more abstract with time.

Vaughan worked as an art teacher at the Camberwell College of Arts, the Central School of Art and later at the Slade School. Vaughan is also known for his journals, selections from which were published.

OTHER ARTISTS WITH ANNIVERSARIES IN 2012

Michel Colombe	(1430 – 1512) French Sculptor
Robert Colquhoun	(1914 – 1962) Scottish painter, printmaker and theatre set designer
Prospero Fontana	(1512 – 1597) Italian Renaissance painter
Jan van der Heyden	(1637 – 1712) Dutch Baroque painter
Franz Kline	(1910 – 1962) American Abstract Expressionist
André Lhote	(1885 – 1962) French Cubist painter
Morris Louis	(1912 – 1962) American Abstract Expressionist
Agnes Martin	(1912 -) Canadian American Minimalist painter
Pierre Mignard	(1612 – 1695) French painter
Pier Francesco Mola	(1612 – 1666) Italian Baroque painter
Adam van Noort	(1562 – 1641) Flemish painter and Draughtsman
Bernardino Poccetti	(1548 – 1612) Italian Mannerist painter and printmaker
Frans Post	(1612 – 1680) Dutch baroque painter
Girolamo Romanino	(1484/7 – 1562) Italian High Renaissance Painter
Louis François Roubiliac Sculptor	(1702/5 – 1762) French-born English Rococo Era
Théodore Rousseau	(1812 – 1867) French Barbizon School Painter
David Ryckaert III	(1612 – 1661) Flemish painter
Wilhelm von Schadow	(1788 – 1862) German Romantic Painter
Gottlieb Schick	(1776 – 1812) German Painter
Nicolas Schoffer	(1912 – 1992) Hungarian architect, sculptor, father of cybernetic art
Harmen Steenwijck	(1612 – 1664) Dutch Baroque Painter
George Sugeran	(1912 - 1999) American sculptor, and painter
Pietro Testa	(1612 – 1650) Italian High Baroque printmaker and draftsman
Paul Troger	(1698 – 1762) Austrian Painter
Maerten van Valckenborch	(1533 – 1612) Flemish Northern Renaissance Painter

A (SHORT) HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

According to legend, the ancient Olympic Games were founded by Heracles, a son of Zeus. Yet the first Olympic Games for which we have records were held in 776 BC, though it is generally believed that the Games had been going on for many years before that date. At the 776 BC Olympic Games, a naked runner, Coroebus, won the sole event - a run of approximately 192 metres (210 yards), making him the first Olympic champion in history. The ancient Olympic Games grew and continued to be played every four years for nearly 1,200 years but in 393 AD the Roman emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, abolished the Games because of their pagan influences.

Approximately 1,500 years later, a young French aristocrat named Pierre de Coubertin began their revival. De Coubertin's attempts to get France interested in sports were not met with enthusiasm but he persisted. In 1890, he organized and founded a sports organisation, Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques (USFSA) and two years later, de Coubertin pitched his idea to revive the Olympic Games. At a meeting of the Union in Paris on November 25, 1892, de Coubertin stated:

“Let us export our oarsmen, our runners, our fencers into other lands. That is the true Free Trade of the future; and the day it is introduced into Europe the cause of Peace will have received a new and strong ally. It inspires me to touch upon another step I now propose and in it I shall ask that the help you have given me hitherto you will extend again, so that together we may attempt to realise, upon a basis suitable to the conditions of our modern life, the splendid and beneficent task of reviving the Olympic Games.”

It was not until two years when de Coubertin organized a meeting with 79 delegates representing nine countries that interest was aroused. The delegates at the conference voted unanimously for the reinstatement of the Olympic Games. The delegates also decided to set up an international committee to organize the Games and, fittingly, Athens was chosen for the revival of the Olympic Games. The very first modern Olympic Games opened in the first week of April 1896.

Summer Olympic Host Cities 1896 – 2012

- 1896** Athens, Greece
- 1900** Paris, France
- 1904** St. Louis, USA
- 1908** London, UK
- 1912** Stockholm, Sweden
- 1916** Awarded to Berlin, but cancelled due to the First World War
- 1920** Antwerp, Belgium
- 1924** Paris, France
- 1928** Amsterdam, Netherlands

- 1932** Los Angeles, USA
- 1936** Berlin, Germany
- 1940** Awarded to Tokyo, then Helsinki, but cancelled due to the Second World War
- 1944** Awarded to London, but cancelled due to the Second World War
- 1948** London, UK
- 1952** Helsinki, Finland
- 1956** Melbourne, Australia
- 1960** Rome, Greece
- 1964** Tokyo, Japan
- 1968** Mexico City, Mexico
- 1972** Munich, Germany
- 1976** Montreal, Canada
- 1980** Moscow, USSR
- 1984** Los Angeles, USA
- 1988** Seoul, South Korea
- 1992** Barcelona, Spain
- 1996** Atlanta, USA
- 2000** Sydney, Australia
- 2004** Athens, Greece
- 2008** Beijing, China
- 2012** London, UK (making London the first city to host the Games three times)