

## Art Appreciation Meeting 09-11-17

**Liz Maisey: 'The American Dream - Pop Art to the Present'**. Liz had attended this exhibition, which had been on at the British Museum from March to June 2017. Liz presented a video clip of the huge exhibition, which displayed over 200 prints by 70 artists. The exhibition traced the development of and experiments in print making and reflected on the journey from a confident USA to a nation in turmoil. Among the exhibits was the famous Andy Warhol print of Marilyn Monroe. The National Collection holds two million prints, including Warhol, Rauschenberg, Liechtenstein and new technology prints eg 3-D effects and images. Some 'pop-art' is currently on display at Worcester Art Gallery and Museum and includes American exhibits by Andy Warhol, Kara Walker, Rauschenberg, Jasper John and others. The exhibition, called 'Warhol to Walker' is free and runs until January 6th 2018. On a personal note, Liz's cousin curated the British Museum exhibition and was also involved in the Worcester Exhibition.

For more information: [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

We watched a video clip on YouTube called: '**Caravaggio; Man and Mystery**', which was intriguing and left us wanting to know more.

For more information Google: **you tube Caravaggio movie**

**Anne Williams: 'Watercolour' by Ian Cruikshank**. Anne talked about this painting which she owns and we watched a YouTube video of this 'pure watercolour' painter, who was greatly influenced by James Fletcher-Watson. Ian Cruikshank lives in Malvern and has often exhibited at the Bevere Gallery, Worcester. He is very good at foliage and trees and once demonstrated a sky watercolour in ten minutes for Anne and her husband. The James Fletcher-Watson Gallery is at Windrush.

A YouTube video of James Fletcher-Watson talking about and demonstrating his artistic skill can be found on Google: **the magic of watercolour James Fletcher Watson**

**Carol Clements: Kari Richardson - 'Movement in Colour 2007'**. The painting portrays Waverley Station, Edinburgh and is an oil on canvas. Kari is Carol's granddaughter. We also saw a miniature '**Lanilash Bay, Isle of Arran**' by Demay, whom Carol had met. Carol also brought along a Chinese **watercolour painting of a Chinese junk**, painted on parchment, which she had bought from a junk shop (no pun intended) and had framed

and a hand-painted silk of a Chinese junk, which she had bought in China. She told us stories about all these contributions, which all had personal connections.

**Peter Wright: Sculpture of Moses by Michelangelo in the Church of St Peter in Chains, Rome.**

'Moses' is a [sculpture](#) by the Italian [High Renaissance](#) artist [Michelangelo Buonarroti](#), housed in the church of [San Pietro in Vincoli](#) in [Rome](#). Commissioned in 1505 by [Pope Julius II](#) for his [tomb](#), it depicts the [biblical](#) figure [Moses](#) with horns on his head, based on a description in chapter 34 of [Exodus](#) in the [Vulgate](#), the Latin translation of the Bible used at that time, which had a mistranslation of 'rays of light' as 'pair of horns'. [Pope Julius II](#) commissioned Michelangelo to build his [tomb](#) in 1505 and it was finally completed in 1545; Julius II died in 1513 and is buried elsewhere. The initial design by Michelangelo was massive and called for over 40 statues. The statue of Moses would have been placed on a tier about 3.74 metres high, opposite a figure of St. Paul. In the final design, the statue of Moses sits in the centre of the bottom tier and there are only 8 statues. This statue is one of Michaelangelo's finest works, a triumph of architecture as well as art. There is anatomical detail in the body and raw emotion in the face. Peter had seen this statue while in Rome and was greatly moved by it.



'Moses' by Michaelangelo, in the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome

**Dianne Bullough: Chinese painting and calligraphy by Glynis M Smith** aka Glynis M Wilson. Birmingham-born Glynis Smith began travelling to China in 1984, which was the beginning of her enthusiasm for the country, its culture and people. She began to learn Mandarin Chinese in China and since then has successfully completed three years of accredited study, in Mandarin Chinese with the Modern Languages Department, the University of Birmingham. Also at the University of Birmingham, School of Continuing Studies she has received accreditation for both courses, the Theory of Chinese Landscape Painting and the Practise of Chinese Brush Painting. Since 1998 she has travelled to China specifically to study Chinese calligraphy and painting with Chinese

artists in many places such as Beijing, Guilin, Huangshan, Yangshuo and Chengde. Her calligraphy and paintings cover a wide range of subjects, styles and techniques. She particularly enjoys painting compositions to complement her calligraphy of classical Chinese poems. As a member of the Midland Art Group and under her Chinese name, Ge Lin Ni, and studio name, Xiao Shan Gu (Little Mountain Valley) she has exhibited at several galleries, locally and nationally, including the Royal Birmingham Society of Art.

Among the paintings the group saw were: Lotus; Wealth and Good Fortune Peonies; Blue Hills; Fragrance of Spring; Always Together; Sparrows; Swallows in Wisteria.

Dianne explained that, in calligraphy, every brushstroke is a force of energy and that calligraphy is the highest form of Chinese art, followed by poetry, music and painting. It is meant to be a truly spiritual experience.

For more information: [www.littlemountainvalleyChinese](http://www.littlemountainvalleyChinese.com) art studio

**Roz Lathe: Seurat - 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'**. This painting, created in the pointillism style took two years to complete. Seurat was aged 25 when he painted it in oils. It is a huge painting, 10' wide and 7' high. To paint this he took 70 preliminary sketches. The painting is a formalised image, with careful composition, very rigid figures and a dream-like quality. There are over forty figures, either in profile or full-face. The figures are frozen, static, incommunicative in their proximity and expressionless. It is a snapshot of Parisian working-class and lower-middle-class life. This was the first painting done in pointillism, where jewel-like colours are painted on in dots, and the shadows themselves are jewel-bright. Even the frame of the picture is painted in dots.

For more information go to: [www.seurat](http://www.seurat.com) a sunday on la grande jatte

Geoff is hoping to arrange three Art Visits as follows: Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum in January; The National Gallery, London; The Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

Heidy Hague