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## DFAS/NADFAS

DFAS is not just another meaningless abbreviation. DFAS exists to stimulate enjoyment of the arts through a series of illustrated lectures and other activities delivered in English by leading British and European speakers, all of them experts in their own field specially brought in to address the DFAS audience. DFAS is associated with NADFAS, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies in the U.K. linking us to an international membership of over 90,000. Lectures are held the first or second Tuesday of the month at **Cultural Centrum Warenar  
Kerkstraat 75,  
2242 HE Wassenaar**

Doors open at 19.30 and the lectures begin promptly at 20.00. The annual subscription is €55 (€90 for a couple). Bank account no. 51.66.00.095 or Giro 8319836, Spooringsel 26, 2613 BE Delft. New members and guests are always welcome. The entrance fee for non-members is €10 per lecture.

*After the summer break we welcome all our members to the 2007-2008 season.*

Once again Jane Choy has arranged an exciting series of lectures. All of our members will have received the new Programme. Please take an extra copy to pass on to friends who you think might be interested in becoming DFAS members or bring them along to lectures you think might be of special interest.

## *Words from the Chairman*

I look forward to seeing all of you at our lectures and events for the new season. We have some new speakers as well as one of our favourites and a wide variety of subjects that will pique your curiosity, lead to perhaps some new knowledge or appreciation and of course give some congenial memories chatting and socialising at our monthly lectures.

Hopefully you have signed up for our season opener which is a very special opportunity to view a private sculpture collection which is right in our midst.

The committee have been working very hard and they deserve a big thanks! We have had some swapping of tasks: Mary Lee Duppen is now our membership secretary while Sue Bridgwater is our special events coordinator. Jenny Ellins is our vice chairman whereas Janet de Quartel remains our treasurer; Marilyn Oostendorp, secretary; Bente Nielsson, Hospitality; Angele Steentjes, publicity; and Kitty Sizoo is in charge of the newsletters. We welcome a new member, Diana Maaldrink. I would also like to give a special thanks to some of our members: Sue McKinley who conceived and helped to organise two 'film evenings' which everyone enjoyed so much that we are thinking of planning some other movie evenings. Our members including Jenny and Chris Ellins, Erica Schokking, Janet and Daan de Quartel who offered hospitality to our speakers. This is always fun and an opportunity to make new friends! You never know what will happen, I heard from one of our speakers that she met her future husband on the train platform when she came to the Hague!!! The raffle has become an important part of every lecture evening and I would like to thank all who supplied the books and sold the tickets including Ellen Kroese, Tina van Krogten and Barbara Harb.

I had the privilege of attending the NADFAS AGM in May and the keynote speaker was Helen Clifford who was our March speaker. Her speech entitled Handmaidens of the Arts, NADFAS: the history of a Success Story, gave a glimpse of the book she is writing on the history of NADFAS to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2008 which also is a story of the changing role of women in British society... and the increasing role of men in NADFAS! Her description of the early beginnings of NADFAS were hilarious such as long discussions before settling on a final name which was soon paraphrased as the national association of dragons and fiery spinsters! In conclusion she said there is something quite terrifying about a NADFAS audience—well dressed, interested but willing to learn and there is often someone who knows more than you! The book can be ordered at a discount before Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to order one, please be in touch with Janet de Quartel. Finally I would like to thank Janet Hammersley for designing our beautiful website [www.dfas.nl](http://www.dfas.nl)

## *Season Opener*

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>, October 2007

This year as our season opener, DFAS has invited members for a tour of the beautiful sculpture garden of the Caldic Collectie at Clingenbosch in Wassenaar. Many of the leading sculptors of the last century are represented in this impressive collection which is open to the public by invitation only.

## *Good Wishes from Former members*

**Last year was the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DFAS the Hague and we had many good wishes from former members who have returned to the U.K and are now enthusiastic members of NADFAS organisations there.**

Messages which didn't make it time for our anniversary edition came from Dorothy Richardson

*I have very fond memories of DFAS. When we moved to The Hague in 1991 I had never heard of NADFAS, but our friend Meg Greenwood said, you must join, it's great. And so we did. I became membership secretary, Barry lent a hand with the projector, and it was all terribly interesting. 'De Warenar' was a superb place to hold lectures, every lecturer who's ever been there comments favourably on it. Back in England we joined PADFAS, a Tunbridge Wells NADFAS, where lectures are held in a school hall, it's functional but that's all. I became programme secretary - which is why I met so many lecturers - and Barry once again helped with the slide projector.*

*I used to meet Jane Choy in London, at the directory meetings, so I did get updated on what was going on in The Hague. After 5 years I've handed the job over to someone else and now I go just to enjoy the lectures!*

*We wish the society all the best in the future, let's hope we all make the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

*Best wishes, Barry & Dorothy Richardson*



### Visit to Pulchri Studio, 21st November

On Wednesday 21st November we will have the opportunity to visit the Pulchri Studio in The Hague. This artists' society was established in 1847 and is located in a beautiful building on the Lange Voorhout. Many renowned Dutch artists were and are members of this society. We will start at 18.30 with a drink in the bar. At 19.00 one of the artist members will give us a guided tour of the building and their collection of works by former members. We will hear about the history of the society and what it is doing for the present members. After the tour, those who wish to can have a meal together in the Society's restaurant. Tour € 10 for members & € 12.50 for guests. Please contact Janet de Quartel to sign up for what sounds to be a delightful evening. Tel. 015 2123290 or email [de.quartel@12move.nl](mailto:de.quartel@12move.nl)

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DFAS would like to give a special thanks to AXA Art for their support



### Good Wishes from Former members 2

from Myfanwy Ryan -

DFAS the Hague will ever hold special memories for me: the comradeship of an excellent committee, a wealth of enthusiastic and learned lecturers and the monthly introduction to some new and exciting information relating to the world of art.

DFAS, with access to so much art, history and architecture within Holland and the bordering countries, has a unique position to inform, educate and enthuse expats and Dutch citizens. This it has done brilliantly for 15 years. Happy Anniversary and congratulations.

Myfanwy and Paul Ryan

## A LOOK BACK AT LAST SEASON

### 24<sup>TH</sup> September 2006

The first event of the season was in Leiden. Members were invited to discover the newly refurbished and re-opened Siebold House which was the home of Phillip Franz von Siebold. In 1823 Siebold was sent by the government, as a physician, to the Dutch trading post in Japan, with the special assignment to collect as much information as possible about this mysterious country.



Siebold brought back a multitude of objects in every field and was known for decades as the Japanese specialist in Europe. In 1830 he bought the Rapenburg canal house to house his collection. To this day it is an information centre and museum for all things Japanese.

### 3<sup>rd</sup>. October 2006

#### Life and Art in Ancient Egypt

Nicole Douek is a freelance lecturer at the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and was involved with the excavations at Memphis with the Egypt Exploration Society.

Her lecture concerned the everyday life of ordinary people in ancient Egypt, based on archaeological finds from a village called Deir el Medinah, meaning "monastery of the town" because of a nearby Ptolamaic temple that was used as a monastery. Deir el Medinah, one of Egypt's archaeological gems, is located in a little valley on the West Bank across from Luxor. It was used for about 500 years during the New Kingdom. It was first excavated by Ernesto Schiaparelli in the early 1900's.

A complete village was dug up and many valuable documents about everyday life were found in the remains of the houses and in a nearby pit, called the 'rubbish dump'! It became an archaeologist's paradise! The discarded records included books, dream books, letters, fairy tales, poems, birth certificates, even an erotic papyrus!

### 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006

#### The Museum Beelden aan Zee

The November Lecture was a break from tradition and was held not at our usual Wassenaar venue but at the Museum Beelden aan Zee in Scheveningen.

The director, Jan Teeuwissen, gave a lecture about the museum followed by a guided tour.

We were treated to coffee and tea before the lecture and this special evening ended with glasses of wine.



Some comments from those present:-

"Last night was great !"

"We thought it was an interesting evening. The building itself was fascinating and our guide convinced me to go back in daylight"

### 12<sup>th</sup>. December 2006

#### "The Cup that Cheered – Tea, Coffee and Chocolate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century"

The December lecture was given by Mrs Dinah Reynolds. Mrs Reynolds works at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and lectures for the National Trust. She showed us how these

new hot drinks needed their own silver, ceramics trays and storage jars and how fashionable life was changed forever.

After the lecture we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies deliciously made as always by Janet de Quartel. As well as the traditional Christmas raffle there was a chance to buy Christmas gifts at a Book Stall organised and manned by a tireless Bente Nielson in conjunction with the American Book Shop.

### 9<sup>th</sup>. January 2007

#### Chopin and Delacroix

The January lecture was by Janet Cannetty Clarke and accompanied by live piano music.

Mrs Cannetty Clarke is well known to DFAS members and her wonderful lectures are always well received.

### 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007

#### The Judith Wade Lecture

The Judith Wade lecture is always an important event in the DFAS calendar. The 7<sup>th</sup>. Judith Wade lecture was held on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the official residence of the British Ambassador. Our Patrons, His Excellency Mr Lyn Parker and Mrs Jane Walker were our charming and gracious hosts.

The speaker was Dr Bronwyn Ormsby who lectured on the ground-breaking conservation project which AXA ART is supporting in conjunction with Tate Modern to develop ways in which modern artwork can be preserved. With the use of excellent modern visual equipment, Dr Ormsby talked to us about acrylic paints and primers, about new pigments and binders, about novel techniques used by modern artists and the use of paints not intended for artwork such as house paints and industrial coatings.



## A LOOK BACK AT LAST SEASON 2

Following the lecture, members, guests, and visitors had an opportu-



nity to view the reception rooms of the Residence and to study more traditional works of art while enjoying drinks and canapés provided by our generous hosts.

### 6th February 2007.

#### Daniel Libeskind

The lecture was given by Mrs. Alicia Salter, a graduate of Oxford University and an architectural historian.

Mary Lee Duppen has written this summary of the lecture: Daniel Libeskind was born in 1946 in Lodz, Poland into a poor but intellectual family. They moved to Israel where he studied music. During a competition at age 13, he impressed Isaac Stern with his virtuosity! Later, the family moved to the U.S. He left music to study for his degree in architecture. Five years later at age 24 he went on to get his post graduate degree in History and Theory of Architecture, but did not get his first architectural commission until age 50! His designs reflect his love for music, poetry and history. Among his best known projects are The Jewish Museum in Berlin, built from 1989 to 1999 and opening in 2001 – this is said to be his masterpiece – and The Imperial War Museum in the North, built near Manchester, England opened in 2002. In 1996 Libeskind won the competition to design an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. His controversial ceramic 8 storied spiral was never to be built, however. A pity because the exterior walls were to be lined with tiles used on the Space Shuttle! Before her recent death from cancer, Maggie Jencks, wished for cancer clinics, called Maggie Centres, to be built, in her memory, Libeskind was one of nine prominent architects to be asked to design these centre. But in February 2003, it was Daniel Libeskind's winning design for the World Trade Center, called Memory Foundations, that gave him worldwide fame. Out of 400 entries the victim's relatives

chose six to compete in the final. Libeskind was the only architect to visit the "bathtub" of ground zero, journeying down some 30 feet into the Memorial Site. He designed "foot prints" as the path linking the past to the future, memory and hope. Libeskind's winning design was to become the tallest building: 1776 ft. high, echoing the Statue of Liberty. However Mr. Siverstein who heads the N.Y. Port Authority, owners of the WTC site, decided against the designs, and the project has been delayed, set for completion in 2014. As it stands now, 5 different architects will build 5 buildings on the site and Libeskind will head the project. His "foot prints" concept is the only idea remaining from his designs. The analogy between the WTC designs and the Jewish Museum show the determination of New Yorker's to carry on, just as the Jewish people's faith did not fade after WWII. Libeskind's memoirs are written in a book entitled "Breaking Ground"

### 6th March 2007

#### "How is it made ? A Closer Look at Silver"

Mrs. Clifford studied history at Cambridge and received her Doctorate at the Royal College of Art. She studied silversmithing, is a senior research fellow, and has curated several silver exhibits, including at the V&A Museum. She is currently writing a history of NADFAS, to be completed next year!

The silversmith craft goes back to the 3rd millennium BC. Its techniques apply to goldsmithing too. Silver has great intrinsic value, so it has been recycled from the previous century to the next. Pre 19th c. silver is usually recycled, an 18th c. tea pot can be made from a melted down 17th c. silver piece. From early on the continuity in techniques allowed the craft not be an expensive one. It was therefore easy to set up a silver shop because the tools and techniques were borrowed from earlier centuries, for example, the hammer and the anvil.

### 10th March 2007

#### TEFAF

The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF Maastricht) is rightly acclaimed as the world's most prestigious art and antiques fair. Over 200 dealers from 17 countries bring a diversity of

exquisite pieces beyond compare - and all for sale. The Fair built its reputation with old masters but there is modern art too, and a dazzling choice of old manuscripts, maps, coins, furniture - old and 20th century, porcelain, silver, jewellery, together with objects from Asia, Africa and South America. All in one amazing venue.



AXA Art very kindly offered DFAS a special day with them on Saturday March 10th. As well as the entry ticket those who attended received the superb large catalogue, coffee at the AXA stand, and a tour followed by a glass of wine.

### 3rd April 2007

#### "How to Look after your Antique Furniture"

Mr Christopher Chanter, a restoration specialist and consultant to the Georgian Group, gave us an illustrated talk on how to look after our Antique Furniture. With slides from his own work in stately homes, and with reference to the structure of woods, he showed us how best to care for our antique pieces. Many of those present took advantage of the opportunity to purchase some of his recommended products.

### 18th April 2007

#### "STOLEN"

A special film showing was organised in April by Sue McKinley.

The film, *Stolen*, concerned one of the "Great Art Thefts Of The 20th Century," and was hosted by Jenny and Chris Ellins. The film investigated the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum theft of 1990. The works taken included *The Concert by Vermeer* and *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* which is Rembrandt's only marine painting. The current dollar figure attached to the stolen work is \$300 million. This documentary by award winning director, Rebecca Dreyfus, who was intrigued by the biggest art heist in American history is a full exploration of this unusual

crime and the fascinating disparate characters involved from the 19th century Grand Dame Isabella Gardner who formed the magnificent collection and museum to the cast of characters involved in the quest to recover the art. After the film, members enjoyed socialising and discussing this "classic who-donnit" over drink and snacks. The evening proved so popular that another opportunity to see it was organised in May. This was hosted by Jane and Wang Choy.

### 8th May 2007

#### The Moguls of India

The last lecture of the 2006-2007 was held on Tuesday May 8th

Mrs Ann Peerless spoke to us about the Mughal Dynasty (the Moguls of India), a family descended from Tamurlane, whose wealth was legendary and whose patronage of the arts would culminate in the Taj Mahal. Mrs Ann Peerless lectures at the Victoria and Albert, the British Museum and on Swan Hellenic tours and is an expert on India, China and Taiwan.

### 9th. June 2007

#### Season Closure

#### Tea at Museum Plantin-Moretus in Antwerp on Sat. June 9th 2007

AXA Art arranged a guided tour of this extraordinary museum which has been designated a Unesco World Heritage site because of its collection of invaluable documents and books, and its important influence on the culture of the time.



Started in 1555 it is the only printing-publishing site that still exists today. The group were taken around by Mr Alexandre Moretus, a member of the family. They were guided through the world-renowned print cabinet containing masters of 16th and 17th century Antwerp, the old printing room and workplace, and the completely decorated patrician villa containing furniture, paintings (by Rubens), porcelain and the old library.



## A LOOK BACK AT LAST SEASON 3



Many of you may look with interest and longing at the mouth-watering tours offered in the NADFAS Review. One of our members gives her views on one of these trips!

### JORDAN with NADFAS in 2006

Friends of ours went to Jordan over the Christmas holidays a few years ago and after listening to them relate all they had seen and experienced, it became a destination I wanted to go to before leaving Europe. This desire became even stronger, after my book group picked the book, "Queen Noor" to read and discuss.

Unfortunately my husband did not share this passion. So when I received the NADFAS magazine and one of the tours they offered featured Jordan, I thought "Great, I can go on this trip all by myself!" In the

end though my husband agreed to go along, as well as another couple we know.

I had no idea what to expect. What would the group be like? How big a group? Would we be herded about like sheep? How would it compare to our trips to Russia, when we travelled with such a fantastic group and guide?

NADFAS was using Cox and Kings travelling agent for this trip and we found the service was good. They communicated with us and answered all our questions.

The guide that NADFAS provided was Sue Rollins, who wrote the "Blue Guide to Jordan". Needless to say she was very knowledgeable about Jordan, but just as important, she was friendly, flexible and went the extra mile to make sure our time in Jordan was special. How many tour groups in Petra get to walk down from the "High Place of Sacrifice, just as the sun sets; have mint tea with a Bedouin; walk out of the Sig by moonlight and then find just the right rock to sit on to watch the sun go down over the Wadi Rum.

The size of the group turned out not to be a problem. There were only twelve of us and we got on really well. Because we were a small group, flexibility was not an issue. For example, we skipped some things on the programme in order to spend more time in the Eastern Desert.

One benefit of going with NADFAS is the time given to lectures. They may be on site as you are sitting on the high places in Petra, outside of Lot's Cave overlooking the Dead Sea or in a room at the hotel.

I can only say that Barry and I are still talking about our trip to Jordan and only have positive things to say about it.

The cost of these trips has to be considered, but when you factor in the size of the group, the guides (we had to have a Jordanian guide with us as well), the bus and driver, and top quality hotels, plus most meals, it is well worth the money.

Our experience of going on a NADFAS tour was very positive and every one in our group expressed similar feelings.

*Jean Brown*

## Invitations from Antwerp and Brussels

### **DFAS members may be interested in this invitation from the society in Antwerp .....**

You would have to find your own way to Ghent, but that is easy both by motorway and by train (changing in Antwerp). It really does promise to be a good exhibition, and if you have never been to Ghent, it is a town well worth visiting.

*Observation and Imagination in British Art, 1750-1950*

*Saturday 24 November 2007*

*Visit with guide to British Vision*

*Museum of Fine Arts, Gent*

*British Vision* is an extraordinary exhibition spanning over 200 years of British art. Held in the newly-renovated Ghent Museum of Fine Arts, the exhibition features paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and prints from some of the UK's most prominent artists. With works coming from over 55 public collections across the UK, Europe and the USA, this is one of the largest exhibitions of British art to be organised in Europe in recent years. Among artists represented are Hogarth, Gainsborough, Stubbs, Blake, Constable, Turner, Burne-Jones, Spencer, Sutherland, Bacon, Freud, Sickert and Hockney. We will meet at the museum at 10.45 am, be given a guided tour in English and for those who wish to do so, then have a meal in the Museum's very pleasant restaurant. There are very cheap week-end train tickets to Ghent, or if you go by car there is ample parking in the park around the museum. Cost: € 12 (entrance + guide) excluding travel and lunch.

If you want to join us for this visit give a call to Gilberte Du Bois – before November 5<sup>th</sup> - mobile phone number: 00 32 477/530 501, or send a mail to: [gilberte.dubois@belqacom.net](mailto:gilberte.dubois@belqacom.net).

**BRIDFAS, our sister society in Brussels is offering**, a study day in London on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> which promises to be an exiting opportunity to visit the major autumn exhibition, The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army, at the British Museum.

More information about these events – as well as lots more interesting information about DFAS – can be found on our website [www.dfas.nl](http://www.dfas.nl)

## AGM 2007

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> after the lecture.

The members of the committee standing for re-election were –

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Chair/Programme  | Jane Choy          |
| Secretary        | Marilyn Oostendorp |
| Treasurer        | Janet de Quartel   |
| Hospitality      | Bente Nielsen      |
| Membership       | Sue Bridgewater    |
| Newsletter       | Kitty Sizoo        |
| PR/Publicity     | Angèle Steentjes   |
| PR English       | Greta Cune         |
| Committee Member | Jenny Ellins       |

We welcome Mary Lee Duppen to the committee who tells us .....

I am originally from California, but after a year studying Art in Italy, and returning to the U. of Oregon to get my B.A., I met my future Dutch husband on board the ship, "Nieuw Amsterdam," in 1969. It was more or less hate and then love at first sight! We married in Wassenaar 2 years later, after Jan's graduation from Delft. After time in South Africa and California, it took the big earthquake in 1989 to bring us and 2 kids back to Holland. Halleluja!

Seventeen years later, we are still here. Our multi-lingual kids are still studying. Jan and I have had various work and artistic ventures. However, it took me 14 years to finally join DFAS!

and Jenny Ellins .....

I came with my husband to Den Haag two years ago, having retired after thirty six years with the Inland Revenue. I had always intended to join NADFAS in the UK when I retired so I was delighted to discover DFAS here in the Netherlands. I am particularly interested in painting, sculpture, and glass but one of the delights of DFAS has been to find out more about the fascinating world of other Decorative Arts. My husband is also a member and we have both found it a great way to meet new like minded people of all nationalities. I am pleased to be able to help the committee in any way possible

The next AGM will be held on in conjunction with our lecture on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Grete Cune and Kitty Sizoo will not be standing for re-election.