

Art Appreciation 2021

November 2021: ORIENTALISM

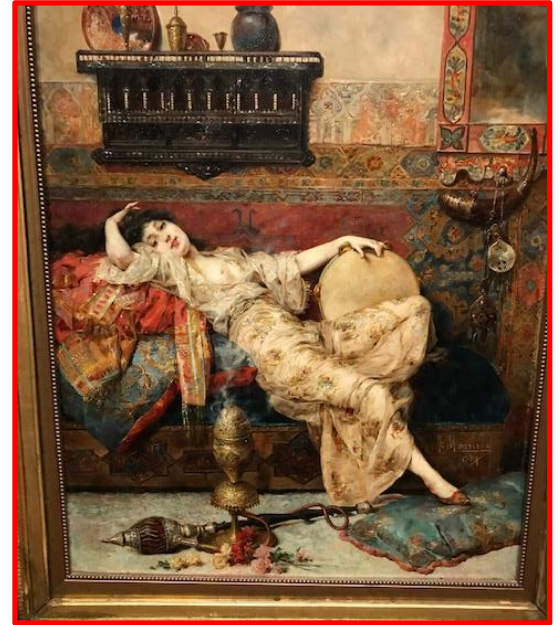
The Art Appreciation group met for the first time since March last year.

The subject of the meeting was Orientalism, a term used to describe a genre of painting generally from the nineteenth century, in which the subject is the life and culture of the Arab world. It was a movement particularly popular in France, following the seizing of Algeria by the French.

The paintings became associated with colonialism and the idea of western superiority inherent in that. So, scenes of hareems, snake charmers and wild uncontrollable Arab horsemen became standard subjects for the paintings. We first looked at the painters Jean-Leon Gerome and Eugene Delacroix, before looking at the paintings on show at the Malaga exhibition.

The term Orientalism was popularised by the academic Edward Said, himself an Egyptian American. He presented the idea as a form stereotyping of the Arab world which has remained with us up to the present.

It was good to see the reformation of the group and I hope we can return to our former numbers in future meetings.



December 2021: WORKS WE LIKE

In December the Art Appreciation group met in a member's house. As this was our first meeting since the beginning of the pandemic we decided to have an informal get together where everyone could contribute. We each chose a work of art which we particularly like and which we could briefly discuss.

There were 9 of us present, and our choice reflected a wide range of artists. Two of us chose sculptures by Michelangelo, the Renaissance painter Caravaggio was another choice, while several chose Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters. The most recent work was by the photographer Lou Reid and his photograph for the cover of the album Queen 11.



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It was an enjoyable meeting and was good to be face to face with the group again. In the past it has been difficult for us to set a particular date on which the group met, but the decision has been made that we will now meet on the third Monday of the month at 2:00pm. The exception to this will be if we are visiting an art gallery and cannot be accommodated on that day.