

Gertrude Stein

Gertrude Stein: An Extraordinary American in Paris

In the early 20th century a great deal of American culture moved to and evolved in the city of Paris. Four extraordinary women presided over American literary life in the city: Edith Wharton, the author, Nathalie Barney, the society hostess, Sylvia Beach, founder of the bookshop Shakespeare and Company and Gertrude Stein, writer, art collector and intimate friend of the best Paris artists of her day.

In our slide lecture we will examine Gertrude's life, her origins in German-Jewish family from Baltimore and San Francisco, her move to Paris with her brother Leo, her discovery of Matisse in 1905, her subsequent friendships with Picasso, Juan Gris and Man Ray and her famous salon set up on the rue de Fleurus in the 6th arrondissement with her companion Alice B. Toklas.

We will be looking at key art works in her personal collection and also that of her brother and sister in law Michel and Sarah Stein. We will also examine her rise to fame in the 20's and '30s as experimental writer and friend of the new American writers (Ernest Hemingway) or musicians (Virgil Thomson.) We will end with her life during the German occupation to her death shortly after the liberation of France by then one of the most famous and notorious American cultural icons of the century.

Lecturer: Chris Boicos, Mphil

Founder of Paris Art Studies, formerly lecturer at WICE and art history professor at the University of Delaware and the University of Southern California in Paris.

To inquire about scheduling a private lecture for your group please contact us by email.