
Late Spring 2012

Paris Art Studies – May-June 2012

Fridays: A History of Paris, Architecture, Urbanism, Society - Part 12:

Paris in the twilight years (1929-1940)

Through the 1920's Paris is a thriving Modernist center – Art Deco and the International Modern style of Le Corbusier and Mallet-Stevens dominate architecture and design and continue into the early 1930's. Café life and the artistic and literary Bohemias are centered in Montparnasse and the Odéon districts. The Wall Street crash and ensuing Depression will, however, alter the heady mood of the "années folles". Most Americans depart from the Left Bank and a conservative Classicism will return in the institutional architecture of the period notably in the elegant buildings for the 1937 World's fair at Chaillot. Surrealism retains its radical edge, though in a more figurative mode (Dali, Magritte) and fashion continues to be very inventive, notably with the rise of Elsa Schiaparelli the innovations of Mme Grès and the beginning of Christian Dior. The rise of Fascism in the rest of Europe and the outbreak of the Spanish Civil war exacerbate social and political tensions in France, considerably darkening the mood of the end of the decade. We will contrast all of these various trends ending with the catastrophic collapse of France and the occupation of Paris by the German army in June 1940.

Course Schedule: 10:30 am -12 noon.

Coffee and tea served at gallery sessions at 10 am.

25 May 10:30 – 12 noon – Gallery –

Modern and Classical Architecture and the art world in 1930's Paris.

1 June 11:15 am – 12:45 pm – Visit –

Cité d'architecture and Palais de Chaillot.

8 June 10:30 – 12 noon – Walk –

Cité Universitaire and the Swiss house by Le Corbusier.

Meet exit of RER B Cité Universitaire.

15 June 10:30 – 12 noon – Gallery –

Paris Fashions 1930 -1945. With costume historian Dimitri Papalexis.

22 June 10:30 – 12 noon – Walk –

Modern architecture in Boulogne.

Meet in front of Boulogne city hall (hôtel de ville)

26 Avenue André Morizet 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt.

Closest Métro Marcel Sembat (line 9).

Students will receive from the instructor a bibliography, printed chronologies and a list of historical figures.

Course fee: 100 € for the 5 sessions or 25 € for one session.

Payable by check made out to: Galerie B.O.B.

Museum fees are additional to course fees.

Paris Special Exhibitions and Lectures

with Chris Boïcos and Dimitri Papalexis

Louis Vuitton and Marc Jacobs

at the Musée des arts décoratifs (until 16 September)

with Dimitri Papalexis Wednesday, 2 May, 11 am to 12:30 pm.

An exhibition that explores the work and personalities of the founder of the

famous French luggage company, Louis Vuitton (1821-1892), and its current director Marc Jacobs. The exhibition juxtaposes the two historical periods, the still aristocratic luxury of the 19th century at the opening of the Industrial Revolution and the current age of globalized luxury and marketing. Historical pieces of Vuitton luggage and trunks are compared to Jacobs's most emblematic creations of the last 15 years. This is a fascinating look at fashion in its wider historical, industrial and social context.

Place: Meet in lobby of Musée des art décoratifs, 107 rue de Rivoli 75001.

Métro: Louvre-Palais Royal (lines 1,7) .

Time: 10:45 for 11 am start. Please bring 9 € for exhibition ticket*

Icons of American Fashion

a special gallery lecture by Dimitri Papalexis

Friday 4 May, 10:30 to 12 noon.

The explosion of the cinema industry at the opening of the 20th century brought to the limelight actors, actresses, public figures and politicians. The expansion of the press industry and television in the early 50's and the internet in the 90's brought into every home images of celebrities and their fashions. Some of these celebrities became true fashion icons for thousands of women all over the world. Mary Pickford, Katharine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, Princess Grace, Jacqueline Kennedy, Ann Bancroft are some of these women in the 20th century as are Lady Gaga and Sarah Jessica Parker today. We shall take a journey through the years to discover their fashion, their style, their designers and their extraordinary impact on the fashion world.

Place: Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos - 1, rue Jacques Cœur 75004 Paris.

Métro: Bastille (lines 1,5,8) exit boulevard Henri IV

Time: 10 am for coffee and tea. 10:30 am for lecture.

José María Sert – Art Deco architect and decorator

at the Petit Palais (until 5 August)

Thursday 10 May, 11:30 am to 1 pm.

José María Sert (1874-1945) is one of the greatest painter decorators of the turn of the 20th century and the 1920's. He left his native Barcelona to settle in Paris in 1899. He soon became an intimate friend of the new writers of the day (C Claudel, Proust, Valéry), artists (Blanche, Picasso, later Dali), musicians (Stravinsky, Falla), fashion designers (Chanel) and the ballet world (Diaghilev, Cocteau). His first wife, Misia (featured in a forthcoming show at Musée d'Orsay we are visiting on June 28), was considered the Muse of turn of the century Paris and was a close friend of the Nabi painters and of the Russian Ballet impresario Sergei Diaghilev. The exhibition presents Sert's most famous neo-baroque décors and projects painted for the society figures of "le tout Paris": Arthur Capel, Chanel's first lover, Chanel herself, the Wendel industrialist family, the King and Queen of Spain and his own magnificent house of the 1930's. This is a wonderful opportunity for examining the decorative style and indulgent fantasies of a by-gone gilded age.

Place: Lobby of Petit Palais avenue Winston Churchill 75008.

Métro: Champs-Élysées Clemenceau (lines 1, 13).

Time: 11:15 for 11:30 am start. Please bring 7,50 € for exhibition ticket.*

Henri Matisse – Pairs and series

Gallery lecture on the exhibition at the Centre Pompidou

(until 18 June)

Friday 11 May 10:30 am to 12 noon.

This the greatest Matisse exhibition held in Paris since the Matisse retrospective of 1992. It covers the entire career of the 20th century master by focussing on the frequent pairs in his work, the reworking of the same subject in an often more concentrated and purified form. Many of his most celebrated works from great international museum collections, the Seville still life (St Petersburg), The Black Fern (Beyeler collection) Interior with Egyptian Curtain (Phillips Collection, Washington) The Romanian Blouse (Paris) Luxe II (Copenhagen) Goldfish with palette (MoMA) and the magnificent 1952 series of the Blue Nudes will be on view. In our slide lecture we will examine all of the major pictures in the show with the addition of other works and photographs of the artist, his studios and family.

Place: Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos - 1, rue Jacques Cœur 75004 Paris.

Métro: Bastille (lines 1,5,8) exit boulevard Henri IV

Time: 10 am for coffee and tea. 10:30 am for lecture.

Berthe Morisot at the Musée Marmottan

(until 1 July)

Thursday 24 May 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

First Paris retrospective in 50 years of the work of the great Impressionist artist and only female member of the group until Mary Cassatt joined in 1878. 150 paintings, pastels, watercolors and drawings give a complete picture of the intimate art of Morisot with portrayals of her sisters, her husband Eugène Manet (brother of her mentor, the painter Edouard Manet) and her beloved daughter Julie. Morisot was very much at the heart of the Impressionist enterprise, and an intimate friend of Manet, Degas and Renoir. Her art combines her identity as a conventional bourgeois French woman of her period, loving mother and wife, with that of a committed professional artist. It is a fascinating synthesis that also renders her art and life an exemplary tale of early feminism.

Place: Entrance to Musée Marmottan 2, rue Louis Boilly 75016.

Métro: La Muette (line 9) Time: 12:30 for 1:00 pm start. Please bring 6 € for group ticket.*

Amis du Louvre cardholders can get a special price of 5€.

Cima da Conegliano at the Musée du Luxembourg

(until 15 July)

Thursday 31 May, 10:30 am to 12 noon.

First major exhibition in Paris for the least known of the great masters of the Venetian Renaissance. Alongside Giovanni Bellini, Giorgione and Carpaccio, Cima da Conegliano (1459-1517) is one of the founders of modern painting in Venice at the opening of the 16th century, the period of the High Renaissance. His religious compositions show a new sensitivity to warm daylight and brilliant complementary color arrangements. His figures are imbued with a quiet contemplative calm and his background landscapes show a typical Venetian sensitivity to atmosphere, soft light and luminous distant horizons. A rare opportunity to see brought together Venetian masterpieces usually dispersed

in a great variety of museum collections and church chapels.

Place: Meet at entrance to Musée du Luxembourg, 19 rue de Vaugirard 75006.

Métro: St Sulpice or Odéon (lines 4,10).

Time: 10:10 for 10:30 am start. Please bring 11 € for museum ticket.*

Artemisia Gentileschi, Glory and Passion of a Woman Artist

at the Musée Maillol

(until 15 July)

Tuesday 5 June, 3:10 to 4:40 pm.

Artemisia (1593-1654) was the daughter of the great Roman baroque artist Orazio Gentileschi (1562-1639) who taught her to paint. She acquired a great reputation and worked for some of the most important patrons of her day, cardinals and princes in Rome, Naples and for the Medici in Florence where she met Galileo. She befriended some of the great masters of the day (Vouet, Stanzione) and trained artists of the later Baroque age: Cavallino, Spardaro, Guarino. The notorious court case brought for rape by her father against one of his assistants, Agostino Tassi, has turned her into a modern feminist heroine: A victim of male aggression but also a liberated professional woman who defied the social conventions of her day and expressed her own sexuality through the female heroines of her mythological and religious compositions.

Place: Meet at entrance to Musée Maillol, 61 rue de Grenelle 75007.

Métro: Rue du Bac (line 12).

Time: 2:50 for 3:10 pm start. Please bring 9 € for museum ticket.*

Eugène Atget at Musée Carnavalet

(25 April to 29 July)

Thursday 7 June, 10:30 am to 12 noon.

Eugène Atget (1857-1927) is the greatest photographer of 19th century Paris.

He made it his life's mission to photograph all aspects of the city, its buildings and streets but also its shop fronts, artisans and peddlers, unique historical and visual documents of the ordinary architecture and people of a now vanished city. He was discovered at the end of his life by the American photographers Berenice Abbott and Man Ray. He is today considered one of the greatest urban photographers of all time. This exhibition brings together 230 prints from the Eastman collection in Rochester with prints from the Carnavalet reserves – many never shown before - as well as 43 prints from Man Ray's personal collection.

Place: Meet in courtyard of Musée Carnavalet, 23 rue de Sevigné 75003.

Métro: St Paul (line 1).

Time: 10:15 for 10:30 am start. Please bring 7 € for exhibition ticket.*

Jonas Netter collection of Montparnasse artists

at the Pinacothèque de Paris

Thursday 14 June, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Jonas Netter, an Alsatian salesman who moved to Paris at the beginning of the 20th century was one of the first passionate collectors of Amedeo Modigliani. Through Leopold Zborowski, Modigliani's art dealer, he also met and began buying the works of Soutine, Valadon, Kisling, Kremègne, Kikoïne, Hayden, Ébiche, Antcher and Fournier,

the artists that are today best known under the label of the « School of Paris » of the 1920s. This is a wonderful opportunity to whiff the flavor of the Paris artistic Bohemia of the teens and the twenties in what is probably the best private collection of the paintings of the Montparnasse era.

Place: Meet in lobby of Pinacothèque, 8 rue Vignon 75008 (check entrance for this show).

Métro: Madeleine (lines 8, 13, 14).

Time: 10:40 for 11 am start. Please bring 10 € for exhibition ticket.*

Degas and the Nude

Gallery lecture on the exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay

(until 1 July)

Thursday 21 June, 10:30 to 12 noon.

This is the first major exhibition in Paris devoted to Edgar Degas (1834-1917) since the 1988 retrospective at the Grand Palais. The exhibition explores Degas' evolution in his practice of the nude, from the academic and historical approach of his early years to the increasingly radical and modern manner of his later years. All techniques from painting, sculpture, drawing, prints and above all pastel are present in major works from prestigious museum collections (Boston MFA, Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art) including the Musée d'Orsay's own very fragile and seldom exhibited works on paper by the great Impressionist artist.

Place: Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos - 1, rue Jacques Cœur 75004 Paris.

Métro: Bastille (lines 1,5,8) exit boulevard Henri IV

Time: 10 am for coffee and tea. 10:30 am for lecture.

Misia Sert, Queen of Paris

at the Musée d'Orsay

(12 June – 9 September)

Thursday 28 June, 10:00 to 11:30 am.

Misia Godebska (1872-1950) was the artistic muse of Paris at the turn of the 20th century.

A talented pianist of Polish origins she married the great art patron Thadée Natanson who

published the most famous art magazine of the Belle Époque, the Revue Blanche. She

became intimate with all the artists of the review, who were a little in love with her and often

Painted her. They included Renoir, Bonnard, Vuillard, Valotton and Toulouse-Lautrec. In the

early 1900's she became the best friend and financial supporter of Sergei Diaghilev and was

involved in the world of the Ballets Russes, befriending Nijinsky, Stravinsky, Cocteau and

Chanel. After divorcing Natanson she married the newspaper magnate Alfred Edwards and later

still, the talented painter and decorator José Maria Sert whose exhibition at the Petit

Palais we are visiting on May 10. The show gathers portraits, paintings and documents

illustrating the life of Misia and the fabulous Paris of her era.

Place: Group entrance B – Musée d'Orsay 75007.

Métro: RER Musée d'Orsay (line C) or Solférino (line 12).

Time: 9:40 for 10 am start. Please bring 10 € for museum ticket.*

Course Fee: 18 € per session for 11 or 10 sessions. 19 € per session for 9, 8 or 7 sessions.

20 € per session for 6 sessions. 25 € per session for 5 sessions or less.

Payable by check made out to: Galerie B.O.B. Museum fees are additional to course fees.

*Please note that sometimes museum ticket prices go up slightly between the time of reservation and the actual date of the visit. Please register for classes in advance to ensure that group visits are not full.

Paris Art Studies at Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos - 1, rue Jacques Cœur 75004 Paris.

Métro: Bastille – exit boulevard Henri IV. Telephone: 06 86 58 98 09

Email Website: www.parisartstudies.com