

Not only artists, everyone needs time off to soak up good impressions, to 'feed the soul'. This day of talks is designed to give you the best such food, in good company and in one of the most beautiful settings in Oxfordshire.

Fee: £40 (£35 concessionary rate for the unwaged or if you book before 15th May) – includes refreshments and buffet lunch.

Pre-booking is essential. To obtain forms call or email us, as below.

Programme

- 9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee
10.00 – 11.00 Linda Proud
11.00 – 11.30 Refreshments
11.30 – 12.30 Jill Line
12.30 – 2.00 Buffet lunch
2.00 – 3.00 Tanya Russell
3.00 – 3.30 Refreshments
3.30 – 4.30 Jeremy Naydler
4.30 – 5.00 Panel discussion

Finding Waterperry

From Oxford take the A40 towards London and turn off at the Wheatley exit, before reaching the motorway. Follow the brown signs to Waterperry Gardens.

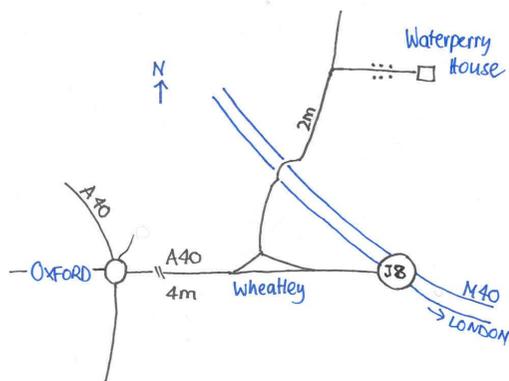
From London and Banbury, leave M40 at Junction 8 and follow signs to Wheatley and then to Waterperry Gardens.

Car Parking

Drive up to the house from where you will be directed to free parking.

Disabled

The house has wheelchair access and all floors are accessible by lift.



School of Economic Science (Oxford Branch)
Enquiries and Bookings: David and Linda Smith
01865 556215

info@ses-oxford.org.uk

Portraying the Divine



Waterperry House

Waterperry, nr Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1JZ
Sunday June 10, 2012 9.30 – 5.00

Jeremy Naydler *Gardening: A Sacred Art*

Jill Line *Arcadia: A Vision of the True Earth*

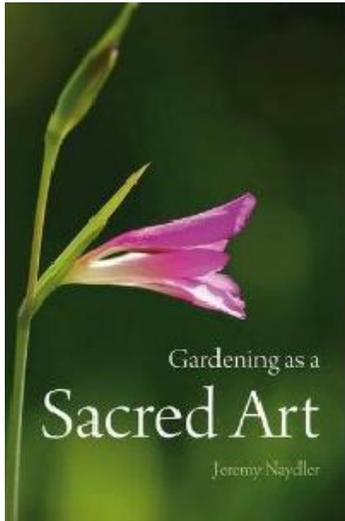
Tanya Russell *The Language of Art*

Linda Proud *Fra Filippo Lippi: The Garden of the Soul*

Pre-booking essential:

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Gardening: A Sacred Art

This illustrated talk will survey the history of gardening, beginning with the ancient world and the Middle Ages when gardens were regarded as essentially sacred spaces. It will trace how during the early modern period attitudes changed, and Nature came to be perceived as a physical resource for us to exploit, with gardening styles typically involving the imposition of grandiose rational designs on reluctant landscapes. During the twentieth century, however, with gardening increasingly seen as an art in its own right, gardeners aimed for the intensification of Nature's inherent beauty. The talk will explore how gardening might develop from a secular art into a sacred art, which once again honours nature's spiritual dimension.

Jeremy Naydler is a philosopher and cultural historian. He is also a professional gardener and his most recent book is *Gardening as a Sacred Art*. On the subject of gardening, Jeremy has also written a volume of poems, *Soul Gardening* and a brief manifesto for gardeners, *In Defence of the Flower Garden*.

Arcadia: A Vision of the True Earth

The idea of a perfect pastoral landscape known as Arcadia, the inspiration of so many poets and painters, has its roots in a profound philosophy. This talk will trace the Arcadian myth and its philosophy from Hesiod and Orpheus, Plato and Plotinus, to Virgil's pastoral poems from which so many poets of the Renaissance, including Shakespeare, drew their inspiration. Although much of this knowledge has been lost, the idea of Arcadia remains to this day.

Jill Line has an MA from the Shakespeare Institute and taught in the Drama Department of Roehampton University. She is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and has lectured and taught for many other organisations including the School of Economic Science, the FBRT, the Prometheus Trust and the Prince of Wales' Shakespeare Summer School for Teachers with the RSC. Her book, *Shakespeare and the Fire of Love*, offers an illuminating study of Shakespeare's Christian Platonic philosophy of love.



Fra Filippo Lippi: The Garden of the Soul

According to Leon Battista Alberti in his book *On Painting*, 'to be a good painter you must be a good man.' Fra Filippo Lippi is notorious for his contempt of his vows: he was never obedient and never chaste. The nun who modelled for his pictures of the Virgin Mary became the mother of his children. Yet this apparently 'bad' man painted divine pictures; moreover, he was the favourite painter of that very astute patron, Cosimo de' Medici.

In this talk Linda will examine the character of Lippi and look at some of his works to question Alberti's dictum, for either Alberti was wrong, or Lippi was a better man than generally believed.

Linda Proud is the author of *The Botticelli Trilogy* set in fifteenth century Florence. In telling the story of Lippi, her latest novel, *A Gift for the Magus*, acts as a prequel to the trilogy. Botticelli still features, but this time as the fourteen-year-old apprentice of the friar-painter.



The Language of Art

In common with all creative people, artists are communicators. They have the power to communicate great emotions and ideas and also to reflect the everyday details and challenges of our daily lives. This talk will explore what tools artists use to speak to their audiences, how intention, skill and vision affect their creation and how the viewer reads the art work. We will also look at some issues which have been strongly challenged in contemporary art practice, such as beauty and originality.

Tanya Russell is a practising artist with thirty years' experience. She founded the Art Academy in London ten years ago to give students the best education possible and to explore the whole area of art and art education. Tanya has recently written a book *Modelling and Sculpting the Human Figure*.

