



February 2024 Issue no:46



## TASMA NEWS

### *Message from the Chair:*

Thank you everyone for your continuing support - we have encouraging, if I may say, outstanding attendance figures from our first presentation this year, even achieving almost full capacity at the evening presentation in Javea and some great lectures to look forward to.

The video from speaker Ian Cockburn was used successfully to publicise the 800 years of Moorish history lecture on 31 January. We will also use this [LINK](#) to publicise the Van Gogh lecture by Anthony Russell on the 6th of March. It is a powerful tool, so do check it out.

Our trip to the Dali Exhibition in Alicante on 20 February was very much anticipated by 35+ people, and proved to be a huge success. Many thanks to Lindsay Hart, Trip Organiser for spearheading the effort.

Hosting has been a pleasurable experience for several members over the past months, as indeed the speakers themselves, and massive thanks are due to our hosters. Now we are looking to fill one night in October and two nights in December.

We would like to recruit a few more people to attend the reception desks. Even though we shall be reserving seats of their choice for volunteers going forward, so they can enjoy the

lecture, volunteering for just one meeting per year would greatly relieve others.

Please feel free to call me regarding hosting and/or volunteering, plus any other TASMA matter for that fact.

Mobile/What'sApp: 620 412 384

Email: [ch.marinaalta@theartssociety.org](mailto:ch.marinaalta@theartssociety.org)

I hope to see you on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

Best regards,

*Tony* (Cabban)

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### **NEXT PRESENTATION**

**Wednesday, 6 March 2024**

***Vincent van Gogh: Madman or  
Genius?***

**By Anthony Russell**

**Salones Canor**

**Registration Opens at 10:00 hrs.**

**Presentation at 11:00 hrs.**

**Complimentary Wine and Soft Drinks**

Directions [CLICK HERE](#)

**Casa de Cultura, Javea**

**Registration Opens at 18:45 hrs.**

**Presentation at 19:30 hrs.**

Directions [CLICK HERE](#)

Sponsors: [Blevins](#)

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### **ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:**

It would seem that there has never been fascination in an artist to rival the Dutchman, who simply signed his work 'Vincent'. We are all aware of the recent

exhibitions and the remarkable prices realised for this humble artist's work. Most of us appreciate the beauty of his efforts but how much do we know about the man himself? This lecture considers exactly why, despite barely selling a painting and his sudden death in poverty, no art historian today denies his genius. There are extraordinary, little known facts to be revealed, while enjoying the remarkable range of his talent. Though seeming so extreme and exceptional, the tragic story of his loveless life is deeply moving and his humanity makes a lasting impression.



*"As I woke up this morning I couldn't help but see the image of the blossoming almond tree . . . and you giving such a wonderful talk.*

*You definitely portrayed another aspect of this artist that makes us acknowledge how important each detail is in our daily lives".*

One of our guests wrote immediately after the talk:

*"Anthony Russell painted a portrait of Van Gogh in brush strokes heavy with emotion and admiration." Chairman of The Arts Society, Berlin.*

*"Thank you very much indeed for the fascinating lecture. You took us on an absorbing, fascinating journey as you spun his life and times into a palette of reality and colour and design, with its joy and tragedy. It was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated and it was a great pleasure to have you back in Wellington." Jane*

### **MEET ANTHONY RUSSELL**

As a cultural historian, writer and artist Anthony Russell has travelled much of the world. Lecturing originally to American university students on bespoke tours of Europe, he has lectured for the Arts Society since 2010. He spent six years as a consultant for Luke Hughes advising on the furniture needs of prestigious buildings throughout Britain, including museums, palaces, and cathedrals. At the British Museum, where for many years he ran outreach events and hosted visiting lecturers, he has been described as "Hugh Grant meets the Dalai Lama." Committed to the 'search for civilisation' and as an advocate of nonviolence, he is the founder of The Chandos; supporting causes that promote understanding and cooperation, is on the committee for Uniting for Peace and a contributor to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Democracy in Burma.



He is author of the book 'Evolving the Spirit - From Democracy to Peace' commended by Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Laureate, as meaning a great deal to her. He was also Founder of the Brockley Festival of Ideas and a Founding Advocate of CIVIL-ISATION. He is currently undertaking research for a new book on civilisation; what it is, whether we have it and how you get it.

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## 2024 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

**Subscriptions:** We do hope that existing members will renew their subscriptions and others will subscribe for the first time.

For 2024, the Membership options are: **Platinum Patron 100€**, **Gold Membership 60€** and **Silver Short Term 35€**. The benefits of these three levels are detailed, click [HERE](#) or you can go direct to the form by clicking on the **PINK** button below:

After you have completed the Membership Form, please pay by bank transfer. The account details are on the Membership Form.

Platinum Membership works out at 12.50€ per lecture and Gold Membership at 7.50€ per lecture, surely a bargain!

[2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM](#)

## TRIPS & EVENTS



**DALI-METAMORPHOSIS EXHIBIT TRIP**  
**20 FEBRUARY 2024**

***"Best curated exhibit Cherry and I have been to in years."*** Tony Cabban

We had a near sell out crowd for the trip to the *Dalí-Metamorphosis Exhibition* at the MUBAG in Alicante. This exhibition, which includes more than 230 pieces, has already received more than 4,000 visits since November 2023.

The incredible artistic mind of Dalí knew no limits. The master of Surrealism was then commissioned to illustrate the fantasy land created by Lewis Carroll in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. A limited edition of the classic was published in 1969. These beautiful watercolours, heliogravures, etchings and drawings comprised the majority of the exhibition at MUBAG, as well as sculpture, film and paintings. Hats off to Lindsay Hart, Diana Wright and the Travel Team for a successful trip.

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## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

At this time, we are in need of more volunteers to attend the Registration desk at the monthly meetings. Additional members are needed to assist the Meet & Greet team and the Hosters to accommodate lecturers in their homes.

Are you interested in volunteering to assist Andrew Ward with audio-visual set up for our lectures? We are very much in need of an understudy to take on these tasks.

Please email Tony Cabban, Chairman at [ch.marinaalta@theartssociety.org](mailto:ch.marinaalta@theartssociety.org). All enquiries will be considered confidential and handled with respect.

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## OUR SPONSORS

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank our 2024 sponsors, Blevins Franks, Inmobres Calpe, and Currencies Direct for their generous support of The Arts Society Marina Alta. Please "Support our Supporters" by taking a moment to read about their services and benefits to Members.

For more information, click on their logos.

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## WE SPONSOR

The Arts Society Marina Alta (TASMA) sponsors **Colegio Público de Educación Especial Gargasindi**, which is a learning facility that is part of a comprehensive educational campus in Calpe. The school has 70 pupils with ages ranging from 3 to 24, all with diverse and varying levels of mental, physical, sensory and motor functionality.

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## THE NEXT PRESENTATION IN OUR 2024 PROGRAMME



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 April, 2024**

***Zaha Hadid: Architectural Superstar***

**By Dr. Helen Sijssling**

***Be sure to visit our website for all upcoming lectures, trips and Society events at: [www.artsocma.org](http://www.artsocma.org)***