

**THE ARTS SOCIETY HIGH WEALD STUDY DAY,
at Benenden Village Hall**

THE NUDE

Tuesday 6th November 10.30 am - 3.0 pm, coffee served from 10.0 am.

Price: £25 including coffee and light lunch. Glass of wine by donation.

Lecturer: Lydia Bauman M.A. B.A.Hons



Ever since the awakening of interest in humanity in antiquity, the unclothed human body began to appear in art, in turns as a celebration of our understanding of its physical structure and as a vehicle for symbolism and lofty ideals. This study day will address the age old question of the distinction between the naked and the nude and the nature of the observer's gaze in contemplating the unclothed human form.

The first lecture will explore *The Changing Face of Beauty*: In our fitness obsessed century we assume that slim and toned is the ideal. This is far from being the case in the past. We will see how the ideal body type is a variable concept, dictated by social and cultural forces of the day.

For the second lecture before lunch we look at *The Male Nude*: invariably presented as action man, the male nude reflects the notion of an ideal human being from antiquity onwards. Notions of masculinity are constructed as well as questioned in images of heroes, gods, slaves and artists from Michelangelo to Schiele

After lunch, we study the female body, painted mostly by male painters for male collectors, which raises the question of the male gaze and the female body as object of fantasy. Long after the waning of interest in classical mythology, the passive female, parading as Venus, continued to recline to offer unfettered access to her body. Mythological and Old Testament sources, where the female protagonist's nakedness was central to the story, offered an opportunity for vicarious enjoyment of the spectacle of violence against women, while offloading the guilt onto the perpetrator in the painting.

Lydia Bauman was born in Poland and studied for her BA in fine art at University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (John Christie Scholarship and the Hatton Award), and an MA in History of Art from Courtauld Institute, She has lectured to diverse adult audiences, notably in London's National Gallery and the MFA Boston USA. Lydia Bauman is the author of *The Guide to Great Themes in Art*.

*Please detach this slip and send it with a cheque for £25 made payable to
HWDFAS, with A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to:
Daphne McKerrell, The Gatehouse, Sissinghurst Road, Sissinghurst Kent TN172JA
Tel:01580-714090
Emailaddress:daphnemckerrell@btinternet.com*

I WISH TO ATTEND THE NUDE STUDY DAY:

Name.....
Address.....
Tel No.....
Email

Name of Guest

Dietary requirements, if applicable.....