

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM AND 18 STAFFORD TERRACE NEWSLETTER

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Autumn 2011

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter which we will be producing quarterly. We hope you will enjoy it.

This autumn we host our second Nour Festival of Contemporary Arts. Launched at the beginning of October, the festival continues to the end of November and features a varied programme including contemporary art, film, music, literature and fashion from the Middle East and North Africa. For more information visit www.nourfestival.co.uk and we hope you will be able to participate in what is rapidly becoming established as an important festival for London.

At the beginning of December, Clare Burnett our Artist in Residence concludes her residency with 'Folded', an exhibition of new work that responds to the use of elaborate draperies in Leighton's paintings. Also in December we have two special musical events; our annual Operatic Soirée and for the first time we celebrate Christmas with a candlelit concert combining festive music of the past with some carol singing of the present. We hope to see you there, ticketing details for both are given on page 2.

Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator



New Acquisition: Colour Sketch for Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna Is Carried In Procession Through The Streets Of Florence, 1854

At auction in New York on 12th October we were delighted to be able to acquire the colour sketch for the picture that launched Leighton's career. Painted in Rome in the early 1850s, *Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna* caused a sensation when shown at the Royal Academy in 1855 and was bought by Queen Victoria on its first day of exhibition – perhaps the most dramatic debut in the history of British art. The colour sketch was produced before Leighton started on the canvas itself and is more substantial and finished than many of his later sketches and complements the exceptional group of pencil studies for *Cimabue* already in the collections. We are extremely grateful to The Art Fund, the Friends of Leighton House & 18 Stafford Terrace, Nevill Keating Pictures and The Fine Art Society for their support and assistance in making the acquisition possible. Support our Friends: FriendsofLeightonHouseMuseum@rbkc.gov.uk

Folded

Clare Burnett, Artist in Residence | 7 December 2011 – 5 January 2012

Struck by Leighton's use of elaborated folded drapery in many of his paintings, Clare has explored connections between these complex forms and those of abandoned paper and card left to blow around outside in London's streets. This exhibition, the result of the residency prompts us to look afresh at Leighton's work as well as notice things in the outdoor environment that might never have been noticed before.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT LEIGHTON HOUSE AND 18 STAFFORD TERRACE



Operatic Soirée In Leighton's Studio

Thursday 1 December, 7.30 - 10.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)
£30.00 includes wine during interval | Booking essential on 020 7471 9155

Commemorating Leighton's birthday and celebrating his love of music, one of our most popular events returns to the house for another year. An evening of wonderful opera performed by Matilda Wallevik and friends is combined with evocative readings that describe Leighton's own 'musics' held annually in his studio. Join us for an evening of great music-making that evokes the life and spirit of the house in Leighton's day.

All proceeds support the work of the Friends of Leighton House and 18 Stafford Terrace.



Carols By Candlelight

Thursday 15 December, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)
£20.00 | Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

Come and join us for a unique Christmas experience in Leighton's studio. Fresh from his success in this summer's Aesthetic Concert, tenor Richard Edgar Wilson returns, this time in the company of mezzo-soprano Barbara Höfling, with John Shea at the piano. Roaming across Europe, they'll be bringing us movements from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, festive music from Georgian England, nineteenth-century treasures by Felix Mendelssohn and Camille Saint-Saens, and plenty more besides. And there's a chance for the audience to unite in song towards the end of the evening, in a selection of much-loved carols. Presiding over proceedings is our very own Santa Claus for the evening, musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett.



Twilight Tours At 18 Stafford Terrace

Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 December
Tours 6.00 - 7.30pm and 8.00 - 9.30pm
£20.00 | Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

An evening of Victorian intrigue and drama, during which you will be treated to a wonderful theatrical performance in the atmospheric interiors of this unique historic home - while tucking into seasonal mulled wine and mince pies. The performances, based on the material in the Sambourne family diaries, are a voyeuristic view of unspoken Victorian eccentricity. Ideal for an alternative Christmas evening out with friends.

Fundraising Campaign: Leighton's Cabinet



Recent visitors to the museum will have seen the addition of a new piece of furniture to the studio. This marquetry cabinet was once Leighton's and stands precisely where it was before the sale of the house contents in 1896. Just over a century later it surfaced at an auction in Australia! Currently on loan to the museum, we are working to raise £7,000 to acquire what would be the most important piece of Leighton's furniture to have returned to the house.

All donations welcome on www.justgiving.com/LeightonsCabinet or download our donation form from www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums. For further information please call 020 7471 9153 or email museums@rbkc.gov.uk.

