Sussex Art Historian identifies mystery painting

David Mellor and Francis Bacon in conversation before the artist's death.

Making front page news in the national dailies (and gossip columns!) recently was the announcement that a newly discovered painting has been identified as a lost self-portrait by Francis Bacon from the 1930s. Sussex Reader in Art History, Dr David Mellor (CCS), was asked by the British Council and David Sylvester - curator of the forthcoming Beaubourg retrospective of the artist - to help authenticate the picture. An authority on Bacon, David joined a select team of experts - two top curators from the Tate Gallery, a conservator and two international art collectors - to deliberate on the status of the painting.

The team worked at a secret warehouse location in West London, aided only by x-rays, comparable works by the artist and their accumulated knowledge of Bacon. A fortnight ago their verdict was reported in The Guardian by David Sylvester. Describing the Agatha Christie-like scene at the warehouse, he judged that the controversial picture was indeed likely to be an image of Bacon by his own hand, dating from when he was only in his early twenties.

According to David Mellor, matters were complicated. “The owner of the picture is very reclusive and had asked to be anonymous, but, as I had known him for 15 years I could verify his longstanding friendship with Bacon. In addition, stylistic evidence also tends to establish the high likelihood of the portrait being painted at the outset of Bacon's career. As he destroyed virtually all his work from the 1930s, the survival of this is extraordinary. This was art history as old-fashioned detective work.”

Public Lecture

Literature and Philosophy are often treated as domains defined by clear frontiers. But there is always uncertainty as to the identity which a frontier is designed to enclose, and Geoffrey Bennington will examine the nature of this uncertainty in his professorial lecture next Tuesday, 4 June.

University Public Lecture
Professorial Lecture
Geoffrey Bennington
Professor of French
Frontiers of Literature and Philosophy
Tuesday 4 June at 6.15 pm
Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre
ALL WELCOME
**Sussex PGCE Erasmus Network**

The University’s PGCE students can practise their teaching in schools based not only in Sussex but right across Europe. Last week the University of Sussex Consortium for Teacher Education and Research hosted a meeting of teacher trainers from across Europe. Delegates from universities and education institutes in Greece, Portugal, Sweden, the Netherlands and Austria gathered in Brighton to arrange future student teacher and staff exchanges in the current ERASMUS and new SOCRATES schemes. They had the opportunity to meet USIE faculty members and teachers from partnership schools.

Patricia Owen from USIE says, “It is quite unusual for students from one year Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses in the UK to take part in ERASMUS exchanges. We are very pleased to be involved, and are keen to build on links such as this. During the past year we have welcomed student teachers and faculty from our partner institutions in Europe and they have worked in USIE and in schools within the Sussex Consortium.” According to Pat, trainee teachers from Sussex will visit Graz in Austria and Örebro in Sweden during their PGCE year and practise teaching in local schools, besides participating in lectures and seminars. As well as developing the European aspect of teacher education, there is also the potential for the Consortium to become involved in some exciting research possibilities.

Future work within the SOCRATES programme on curriculum design to take account of the European dimension and on developing schemes of course accreditation were discussed at the network meeting. A variety of joint research activities are also planned between members of the network.

**PEOPLE**

**PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY** Peter Smith (SOC) has just returned from visiting Hong Kong and China, where he completed a three-year study of cross-cultural communication in joint-venture hotels. The study investigated the problems experienced by Chinese hotel managers and their non-Chinese partners in the Shanghai region. Paradoxically, senior Chinese managers were less satisfied working with ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong and Taiwan than they were with Western managers, because they saw them as a greater block to their promotion prospects. Peter presented his results at a conference in Hong Kong, and he also gave seminars at three universities in the region.

**IGHTY SAILING BOATS** set out from Brighton last week under the watchful eye of ten Sussex students aboard the Royal Navy patrol boat HMS *Pursuer*. The flotilla battled against rough seas and force six winds to take part in the 20th Brighton to Fecamp Royal Escape Race. The students were all members of URNU, the University Royal Naval Unit. They regularly use the *Pursuer* for weekend and holiday deployments.

**OC LECTURER, LUKE MARTELL** has been making sense of New Labour in a series of articles and a book. With colleague Stephen Driver, he has written on New Labour’s ideas about social justice, economic efficiency, the individual and the community. They argue that there is substance beneath New Labour’s slick PR. It is not merely Old Labour re-hashed because it has broken with the idea of social democracy. Nor is it simply right-wing, because it is different from libertarian and nationalist conservatism. However, it is characterised by a drift towards making moral prescriptions, like liberal-conservatism.

**What the papers say**

The University’s very own Meeting House featured as one of the Independent’s “unusual sites from around the globe” (28 May). “If you are planning a day trip to Brighton soon,” the paper advised, “take a bus out to the campus of Sussex University, a congregation of first-generation post-war British buildings at its idiosyncratic best”. The architect, Sir Basil Spence, is described as “never less than controversial, mixing a high Corbusian modernism with a cannny and unmistakable wit of his own.”

AFRAS LECTURER TONY BINNS chaired a wide-ranging discussion on The Image and Future of Nigeria which featured in the magazine West Africa (20 - 26 May). “More than a dozen speakers, many of them Nigerians, raised a variety of issues including corruption, inefficiency and the most appropriate future style of government for Nigeria,” said the report. “The spirit of the debate was overwhelmingly positive and constructive, with a genuine desire to portray Nigeria, and indeed the whole of Africa, in a much more positive light.”

**SUSSEX STUDENT DARREN BAKER’s** views on Larry Clark’s controversial new film, *Kids*, were printed in the Guardian (23 May) “This film should be subtitled *Adults*, as the fantasies, blindness and lack of morality in reactions to it are the (predictably) shocking thing here. This film is not the dweeb fantasy of a dirty old man. It is about Aids, and an environment where Aids can act as a metaphor.”

**Book Sale**

In the late sixties the University Library published a number of facsimile reprints of seventeenth and eighteenth century French texts by Bouhours, Lamy, Lancelot and others. Remaining stocks of these, together with a few related items, are offered for sale for a limited period at a price of £1 per volume. Enquiries should be made to the Copy Shop on the ground floor of the Library. Any copies not sold by Friday 28 June will be disposed of.
Bosnian reporter studies at Sussex

NEVEN ANDJELIC watched his home city descend from multicultural harmony into war. Four years after Sarajevo erupted into violence, Neven lives here in the UK. Once one of Bosnia's most influential journalists, he is now a DPhil student at Sussex. His thesis examines Bosnian politics and society, studying the country in the build up to war.

Neven was born in Zagreb and lived in Belgrade before arriving in Sarajevo at the age of 12. He is fiercely opposed to nationalism and the conflict which it fuels. "In a 1991 census," he says, "60% of Sarajevans saw themselves simply as Yugoslavs. They felt part of the whole state, not of an ethnic minority. But the war has made ethnicity divide the city, families and friends."

After university, Neven worked for Radio and TV Sarajevo. In the weeks before war broke out, he used his radio broadcasts to urge the population to demonstrate against nationalism. In one day, 80,000 people united in demonstration in the city – a day he will never forget. For the first year of Sarajevo’s conflict, Neven dodged snipers to report daily on the war. But as a known and vocal opponent of nationalism, eventually he was forced to flee to Croatia.

From Croatia, he escaped to London. He has been on tenterhooks for the last three years to find out if the UK will grant him political asylum. His parents remain in Sarajevo, but he cannot imagine ever returning to the city he used to love.

Last month, Neven took part in a one day History and Media workshop at Sussex in which he discussed Western media coverage of the war in Bosnia.

In brief

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Courses for STAFF Funded by Staff Development

These are introductory courses covering basic IT skills. To book a place please come to the Computing Centre Reception or phone ext 8090.

Thursday 27 June 9.30 – 11am: Computer Skills for Absolute Beginners

This course takes you slowly through the basic concepts including how to control the mouse.

Friday 28 June 9.30am – 12.30pm: PC Introduction

The course covers how to use Windows 3, backup files onto floppy disc and includes an introduction to word processing.

Monday 1 July 9.30am – 12.30pm: Word for Windows

An introduction to Word for Windows which will assume that you are familiar with the material covered in the PC Introduction course.

Wednesday 3 July 9.30am – 12 Intro to Spreadsheets (EXCEL).

You are introduced to the basic concepts of spreadsheets using EXCEL.

Thursday 4 July 9.30am – 12: Email (ECSMail) Introduction to ECSMail, windows based email.

Friday 5 July 9.30 – 11.30am: Accessing the Internet

This course gives you an introduction to some of the tools available for accessing information on the World Wide Web including Netscape and the Pier.

Monday, 8 July 9.30 – 11.30am: Networked Information Services (BIDS)

You will learn how to access and interrogate New BIDS-ISI.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Mylene Powell in the Research Office, ext 3812 (mornings only), email: M.G.Powell@sussex.ac.uk

DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL MODULES AT MASTERS LEVEL: EPSRC call for proposals. The modules must meet 3 strict criteria: the content must be at Masters-level; the modules should be delivered as 'stand-alone' short courses; strong evidence of industrial need is required. Closing date: 31 July 1996.

SOUTH THAMES BREAST CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMME: Outline proposals invited in 4 areas. Up to 6 projects will be commissioned (up to 100,000 per project). Closing date: 24 June 1996.
Monday 3 June - Sunday 9 June

**Meeting House**

- Lunchtime Recital
  1.20pm, Tues 4 June, Phillip Bailey (organ), in the Chapel.
- Lecture
  Thurs 6 June, 6 - 8.30pm. An informal evening with Hildegard of Bingen, Dr June Boyce-Tillman (Reader & Princinal Lecturer in Music, King Alfred’s College of FE, Winchester). In the Quiet Room.

**Film at the Gardner**

- Friday 7 June
  11.30pm Clockers
- Sunday 9 June
  6pm Like Water for Chocolate
  9pm Clockers

**Playgroup**
The East Slope Playgroup are having an Open Afternoon on Thursday 13 June between 2 - 4pm. Come and meet the new staff - refreshments, bouncy castle and fun for the under-fives. Playgroup spaces available from October.

**Language Centre**
The Language Centre is offering 5 day Summer Schools in Chinese, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Japanese & French. 1 - 5 July, cost £85. For further details tel: Alex on 678006 at the Language Centre.

**Tennis Tournament**
12 June at the Pavilion. 5pm onwards. Mixed doubles tennis tournament. Restricted number of team entries. To enter your team, tel: x3950 or x8230.

**Swanborough Gardens**
Swanborough Manor Gardens will be open on Sat 1 June, 2 - 5pm, in aid of the Rockinghorse Appeal. Please come and support the appeal, which raises money for the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children.

**CCE Saturday Schools**

- Archaeological Illustration: Flintwork
- Brighton Townscapes: Landscape and History
- Bessie Head and the Search for Identity
  22 June. By Val Denning. An introduction to the compelling literature of Bessie Head.
- Historic Sussex Churches: Coach Tour
  22 June. By Graham Mayhew. The tour includes brasses and monuments at Northiam and Brede, and William Morris glass at Rotherfield.
  For further details, tel: Centre for Continuing Educatio, Educational Development Building, x8926.

**Small Ads**

- FLAT TO LET: with balcony & double bedroom in Brighton seafront square. From Sept. Fully furnished & equipped. Suitable for overseas visitors - minimum 1 month, maximum 3 months. £150 pw incl. (excl. telephone). Tel: Norma Binnie 542736 or x4257.
- HOUSE FOR SALE: 3 bedroom maisonette, good location in Lewes, fireplaces, C/H, member of faculty leaving country. £60,930. Tel: 479208 after 6pm.
- FLAT TO LET: large 2 bedroom flat on campus with great views. Available from 18 July. Suit family or couple. £480 pcm incl. Tel: x3950.
- COMPUTER FOR SALE: Macintosh 512k with keyboard, mouse and some software. Any offers? Tel: x4328 or 724729.
- AU PAIR AVAILABLE: in August. Used to working with children. Brighton area preferably. Tel: Marina Schembri. 00 33 67 68 96 51 or mail: 408 Enclos des Tenilles, 34280 Camon, France.
- CAR FOR SALE: Saab 95 V4. 1978, 65, 000 miles. MOT until Nov. Reliable classic, used daily. Green, £400 ono. Tel: x8342, email: georgem@eaprix.susx.ac.uk.
- BABY ITEMS FOR SALE: baby bath, £5; cot with mattress £50; pram/buggy/pushchair, £50; steriliser, £10. All clean & in excellent condition. Tel: 729600 (even), email: s.awan@sussex.susx.ac.uk.
- PENPAL WANTED: Japanese girl wants English-speaking penpal. Tel: x3741.

**Calling all Finalists...**
Back by popular demand...

**HOT DOGS & COOL CATS**
Saturday 6 July, 6.30pm

**Playing Fields Pavilion**
Sussex alumni and finalists are invited to an evening of mellow music, burgers and beer. The Sussex Club is holding a summer barbecue with guest band Herbie Flowers and Friends playing live. Come and join in the fun. Tickets cost £7 adults, £4 children. Call the Alumni Office, x8258 or call into the office in Sussex House.

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**Pub Quiz III**

Tuesday 3 June at the Pavilion. Superb prizes to be won. Maximum 6 per team. To enter, tel: x3950 / x8230.