



# What have the Victorians ever done for us?; the Art, Dreams and Realty of the nineteenth century.

## A Study Course with Adrian Sumner

From Monday the 23rd of February until the morning of Friday the 27th of February 2026



A rhetorical question, of course. Even though our world is struggling to forget everything older than 50 years, you only need to look around to see the Victorian influence is not that easy to ignore, and has played a huge part on creating 'Now'. This course will look at all(most) aspects of the Victorians and their Dream Society, how it come to be, then whatever became of it.

## Monday the 23rd of February

Please feel free to arrive any time from mid-morning onwards. Complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits, will be available in the main lounge.

### 6.00pm.

The first organised activity will be a sherry reception held in **room nine on the first floor of the main building**. This will give you an opportunity to meet your fellow students as well as your tutor Adrian Sumner.

### From 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the lounges.

## Tuesday the 24th of February

8.00am - 9.45am. A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining room.

### 10.00am - 12 noon.

#### **The Art of Industry.**

Without the money ( let's call it Wealth shall we?), how could the vision be turned into bricks and mortar ( trinkets, objets de virtue and other social signifiers- into Victoriana in fact ). A study of the dirt, smoke, and smog and the fascination of artists for it. A whistle-stop tour of 18<sup>th</sup> Century art, including some of the greatest of all British artists; Turner, Constable, George Stubbs and Joseph Wright of Derby. Plus those who were also industrialists, including Josiah Wedgwood, and Mathew Boulton.

**Break for a buffet lunch between 12.30 - 1.30pm.**

### 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

#### **The Romantic Movement and how the love of Landscape was invented.**

Including all of the above, plus Thomas Gainsborough, John Martin, Francis Danby and other Cinemascope painters. As well as a new trend for the scientific, close up world of Nature through the eyes of scientists assisted by lens technology.

### From 6.00pm.

A pre-dinner sherry reception in the main lounge.

From 6.00pm - 8.00pm. A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.



# Wednesday the 25th of February

## 8.00am - 9.45am.

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining-room.

## 10.00am - 12 noon.

### **The Pre-Raphaelites. The Brotherhood, the late Victorians , William Morris , the Guilds, Medieval Fantasy, Gothic, Arts and Crafts.**

How the 'Visionary Vanities of half-a-dozen boys' seized the imagination of a whole generation, and , significantly, enough 'New Money' to give them, first, a good living, and then Star Status. Looking at boys of the PRB, the Genius of Burne Jones (who became the 'Greatest British Artist in the World' or at the very least across Europe) and the contribution the movement made to Victorian Narrative Painting, and Social Realist Painting.

## **Break for a buffet lunch between 12.30 - 1.30pm.**

## 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

### **High Victorian Painting, and the Aesthetic Movement.**

Looking particularly at the artists with the highest aspirations for their Art, including Lord Leighton, George Frederick Watts, Frederick Sandys, Lawrence Alma-Tadema, and the many artists who looked to the Classical World for their inspiration, but were able to add a pinch of PRB to their technique when necessary.

## From 6.00pm.

A pre-dinner sherry reception will be held in the main lounge.

## From 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.



## Thursday the 26th of February

**From 8.00am - 9.45am.**

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining room.

**10.00am - 12 noon.**

### **Artists of the Decadence. The movement which would not go away.**

Consisting of the many artists who didn't fit easily into even the broadest interpretation of Victorian Art, this group, who were never an organized 'group', might include Aubrey Beardsley and J A M Whistler, some late Pre-Raphaelites and Fairy-painters, as well as numerous French, German, Belgian and Dutch painters, and even some sculptors. This lecture draws them all together to give us the opportunity to make up our own minds. Endless thrilling artworks, by Moreau, Rops, Redon, Puvis de Chavannes, Toorop, Khnopff, Vrubel, seen in the light of the parallel literature (Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Verlaine, Oscar Wilde, Flaubert, Swinburne), More fun, and more difficult, than catching squirrels.

**Break for a buffet lunch between 12.30 - 1.30pm.**

**3.00pm - 5.00pm.**

### **Legacy and influence.**

Looking particularly at how Pre-Raphaelite detail influenced much Realist Art which came after, including Social and Socialist Realism.

**6.00pm.**

Adrian will host an informal bucks-fizz reception **in the main lounge**. Everyone will have downed tools by now, and this is an excellent opportunity to unwind and enjoy the company of your compatriots.

**From 6.30pm - 8.00pm.**

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.

## Friday the 27th of February

**8.00am - 10.00am.**

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining room.

**The McMenemie Family and everyone at the Green Park  
hope that you will have enjoyed your stay with us,  
and that you have a safe journey home.**

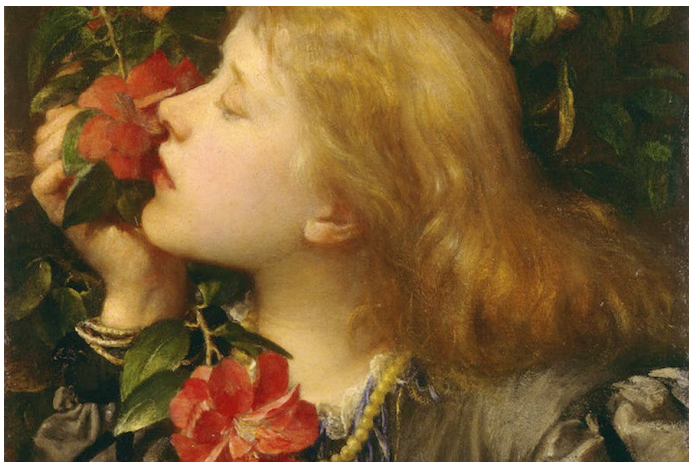
# Adrian Sumner - A Biography

A graduate of Liverpool College of Art, Adrian has worked as an Illustrator, Arts Development Officer and Lecturer in various academic and public institutions. He has been Arts Development Officer for Chester City Council, then Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a particular interest in Visual art.

He has lectured in the History of Art for the University of Liverpool and a variety of groups and societies, to many thousands of people over a period of thirty five years. Recent developments have included lecture tours to Paris, Glasgow, Prague , Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Florence, Pisa, Siena, Bruges, New York, Madrid, Ekaterinburg Cologne and many English cities. Specialist subjects include Art Deco, Flemish Art, Art Nouveau, Mannerism and the Modern Movement.

His painting is figurative and highly detailed, drawing its inspiration from many periods of history and many artistic sources. It is mythological, symbolic, exotic, erotic, arcane, literary, whimsical, ancient and modern. It refers to games, puns, magic, alchemy, physics, poetry, dreams and visions. It aims to entertain, disturb and resonate. A gallery of works is viewable at [www.adriansumner.com](http://www.adriansumner.com).

In 2006 he was accepted for inclusion in the Directory of Approved Lecturers for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies.





**Please tick which of the 2026 break/s you are interested in attending.**

☐ **Art of the Jazz Age**

**Sunday the 1st of February until the morning of Thursday the 5th of February 2026**

☐ **Art of the Victorians**

**Monday the 23rd of February until the morning of Friday the 27th of February 2026**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ROOM / ROOMS REQUIRED

TWIN \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the above accommodation in my name.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost of the 2026 four night Art History breaks is £619.00 per person.**

This amount includes the entire package as described in this programme, and there is no supplementary charge for single accommodation.

**If you wish to travel to Pitlochry by coach or rail, we will arrange for complimentary transport between Pitlochry Station and the Green Park, for both your day of arrival and your day of departure.**

**Guests wanting to stay any extra nights before or after the art break would be charged at our low season rate of £144.00, per person per night for dinner bed and breakfast.**



