

Art Appreciation Group

March 2020. Report by Roger Stanyon

The March meeting was held at Enterprise House following the sudden closing of the Jersey Farm Hotel on 26th February and Enterprise House will be our home in the future.

At the meeting we looked at the second episode of the BBC documentary *The Story of Women and Art* presented by Professor Amanda Vickery, which was devoted to women artists of the 18th century, an era of technological and economic change.

Professor Vickery found that despite being regarded as second class citizens, when it came to art this was an era when ingenious women seized a galaxy of fresh opportunities to stamp their creativity on the age: from the designer Anna Maria Garthwaite who revitalised the British silk industry to the painter Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun who created a name for herself in the Ancien Régime.

The opening of the Royal Academy of Art in London in 1768 was an apparent step forward for women artists. The Academy had two founding female members: Mary Moser and Angelica Kauffman, who were able to work, but they were denied equality and couldn't study male models in order to protect their modesty! No further women were elected as full members of the Academy until Dame Laura Knight in 1936.

We had problems showing the DVD because of a fault in the venue's equipment. Luckily computer expert Ian Hodgson was able to help and we managed to show it, but with Dutch subtitles! In spite of that the members liked the room, especially the available of coffee and biscuits.

Unfortunately the room at the Enterprise House is not available on the first Wednesday in April, so the next meeting is on Wednesday 6th May when we will look at the final episode of *The Story of Women and Art*.

Roger Stanyon

01833 631758 rogerwstanyon@gmail.com