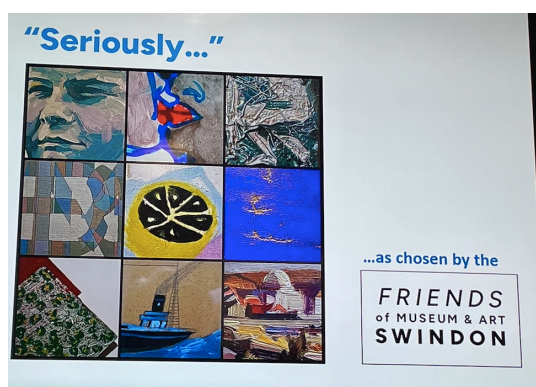




# FRIENDS of MUSEUM & ART SWINDON

## Newsletter - April 2025



On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April some of the Friends gathered in the council chamber in the civic offices for the monthly talk. This month Linda Kasmaty, Claire Parsons and Miles Franklin talked to us about their selection for the 'Seriously ...' Friends' exhibition on display in the gallery. It turned out to be a most agreeable and educational journey into some of Swindon's modern art.

Have you been to see the exhibition yet? If not there's more info on it here: [🌐 "Seriously..."](#) And if you have - what are your thoughts? Why not drop a line to the Chair, Andrew Cross ([andrewcrossfmas@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcrossfmas@gmail.com)) and let us know what you liked or didn't like etc?

Our next talk is on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. It's Mark Golder talking about Stephen Russ. More information on the Friends' website here:

[🌐 Mark Golder on Stephen Russ 29 May 2025 - Friends of Museum & Art Swindon](#)

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## Also forthcoming

Join Kirsty Hartsiotis, one of the curators of [A Very British Art Revolution](#), for an informal curator tour of the exhibition, all about how artists reassessed their lives, their subject matter and their responses to the British landscape after the First World War.

Visit the **Museum and Art** website for more information and to book your ticket:

🌐 [Curator Talk: A Very British Art Revolution - Reinventing Life](#)

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## Other news

MAS have approached the Friends for financial assistance with a new acquisition for the collection. This sort of support for MAS is, of course, part of our remit. Ergo, we're giving the proposal all due consideration. We'll report further when there's more to tell.

### What else?



Well, signage to MAS, or the lack of it, continues to be an issue given that what there is, is pretty much confined to what we see in the image above.

This newsletter compiler recently wrote an article for The Ink (the subscription news service) run by Jamie Hill, about the Swindon collection. I took the opportunity to mention the sub-optimal signage situation. I've recently transferred some of that article, re-jigged a little onto my blog. If you're so inclined it's here:

🌐 [Swindon's Serious Art Collection - Born Again Swindonian](#)

It's gratifying to know that we're not the only ones frustrated by this situation. On posting a link to my blog post on Facebook, a friend posted this comment:

**'I think they've done an excellent job with the museum and art gallery but the signage to find it is seriously lacking. I didn't even spot a sign saying "this way" when turning into the grounds. I knew where I was going and still doubted I was going the right way. It could seriously help with footfall to have information boards and direction signs around the whole area.'**

I took the liberty of tagging Jim Robbins, SBC leader, on the post and got this reply: **'I'm not fully aware of what is being planned but new signage is being sorted.'** I have responded asking if he knows what timescale they're looking at ...

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# Other organizations

The Friends has a close relationship with both the Arts Society Kennet and Swindon and **the Friends of Lydiard Park**. If you want to see what the latter is up to you'll find them here:

🌐 Working to Conserve & Enhance Lydiard Park - Friends of Lydiard Park

Meanwhile **the Arts Society Kennet and Swindon** is here: <https://theartsociety.org/kennet> Their next lecture, Photography: From Negative to Positive, is on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Ellendune centre in Wroughton at 11am. Info etc here: <https://theartsociety.org/events/lecture-photography-negative-positive>

And at Christ Church on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May there's this:- 3pm in the church. No admission charge but a donation welcomed.



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## Art in Literature

Any fans of Bendor Grosvenor, the art historian, writer, TV presenter and distant relative of the Duke of Westminster, may be interested to know that he's recently published a book. It does look jolly interesting. A triumph in fact, according to Waldemar Januszczak.

Check it out on Amazon here: 🌐 The Invention of British Art - a gift for art lovers - NB: Other book sellers are available.



## Social Media

If you're the social sort you'll find us on Facebook here: [🌐 Friends of Museum & Art Swindon](#) and on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsmuseumartswindon/>

If you use either of those platforms do give us a Like/Follow!