



ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN: MONET TO MATISSE

TUESDAY 12 APRIL

NICHOLAS FRIEND

Flowers have taken centre ground in major painting since the Middle Ages, symbolising all kinds of qualities from the Virgin Mary to the fragility of life, while challenging the artist's ability to capture structure, colour and impermanence. It took Monet actually to create a garden to act as objective correlative for his art, and where he led, others followed. He understood deeply how the artifice of the garden can be related to the artifice of painting, and how the painter's colours can enhance the effects of nature and take them in different directions. Renoir used the garden as a setting in which he could steep Monet himself in his subject; Pissarro used flowerbeds to break up light; Cezanne used his garden to explore shadow as part of the structure of the subject; Van Gogh was fascinated by the punctuations of municipal planting; Kandinsky had an almost mystical reaction to the colours of his Bavarian garden; Matisse responded to the explosions of yuccas in Morocco; Klee saw the garden as a playground for his imagination.

MEET 10:30 coffee for I Iam lecture at the Art Workers' Guild, Bloomsbury

ENDS 3:30pm Royal Academy of Arts

COST £81 members, £91 non-members (£65 and £75 RA members)