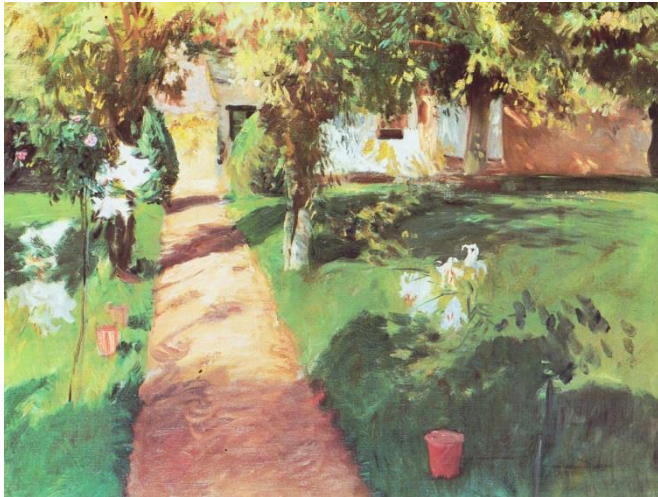


Fizz and Crackle:

imagination, innovation and curiosity
in the work of John Singer Sargent



*'Be continually making **mental notes**, make them again and again, test what you remember by sketches till you have got them fixed'.*

John Singer Sargent's advice to students

John Singer Sargent's international reputation as the leading international society portraitist left him open to attack from jealous rivals and critics with their own modernist agenda. The waspish critic, Roger Fry complained that he was 'deafened by the fizz and crackle of Mr Sargent's brushwork' and that his skills were 'non-existent as an artist'! Such vitriol was all the more ironic in that Sargent had officially closed his Chelsea portrait studio in 1907.

We will explore the extraordinary inventiveness (curious was a favourite word), modernity, and psychological insight in Sargent's work as well as his technical brilliance across a range of media and subjects. These will include many personal themes and preoccupations in landscape, seascape, light and tone and intimate portrait studies. Also less well known projects and experiments in sculpture.



Caricatures, letters and diaries will be used to bring the personalities to life and to shed light on the life and interests of John Singer Sargent - a charismatic, unconventional and complex artist who was equally at home in England, Europe and the USA. A visual Sargent feast!

Lecture or Special Interest Day.

