What Makes a Masterpiece?

Ss. Philip & James Church House, Painswick Road, Cheltenham

10 weekly meetings, Mondays from 2.15 – 3.45 pm 9 Jan – 12 March 2012

TUTOR: Lynne Gibson MA

Open any general art history book, such as Ernst Gombrich's 'The Story of Art' and you will recognize familiar paintings which make up the canon of great masterpieces.

Many of these are in major European and North American public collections such as the Louvre, the Prado, London's National Gallery and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

From Botticelli's 'The Birth of Venus' to Leonardo's 'Mona Lisa' to Picasso's 'Demoiselles d'Avignon' these iconic works are so highly valued that they are almost priceless.

But why are they so highly prized? Are they necessarily the best examples from the artist's oeuvre and might other artists have been unfairly overlooked? Can you suggest some lesser known artists or artworks which deserve greater recognition: perhaps a place in the canon?

This richly illustrated course will be based on suggestions from members of the group as well as some of my own. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion. We will attempt to answer the question: what, exactly, makes a 'masterpiece'?

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Title: Forename(s): Surname:

Address:

Telephone no: email:

The course fee is £75 per term. A deposit of £35, paid by the end of December, secures your place. Cheques should be made payable to LYNNE GIBSON, and posted to:

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