**Lecture 7 BRITISH PAINTING,**

**ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE**

**Plan**

1. **British painting.**
2. **The paintings of the 20th century**
3. **British Architecture**
4. **British Literature**

The eighteenth century was the great age of British painting. The paintings of **William Hogarth** showed satirical scenes from ordinary life and were enormously popular. **Sir Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough and George Romney** became famous for their polished and elegant portraits.

**William Hogarth** (1697-1764) was the first great English painter who raised English pictorial art to a high level of importance. W. Hogart had friends among famous English writers (J. Swift, Filding.) He brought painting closer to literature and theatre. Being a social painter, he produced his own pictorial drama showing different scenes of society’s social life.

**Joshua Reynolds** (1723-1792) was the first President of the Royal Academy of Arts in Britain. He painted portraits, group pictures and historical themes. Among his sitters there were the socially prominent people of the time.

**Thomas Gainsborough** (1727-1785) succeeded brilliantly as a portrait painter. His portraits are painted in clear tones, where blue and grey colours predominate. (“The Blue Boy”, “MRS Sheridan”). Gainsborough is the creator of the great English school of landscape painting. His great love for the English country and his delicate understanding of nature are especially felt in the pictures “The Watering Place”, “The Harvest Waggon”.

**Thomas Lawrence** (1769-1839) was a painter of kings, princes, great diplomats, generals.

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries romantic painters appeared who emphasized the beauties and forces of nature. This is seen in the landscapes of **John Constable and J. M. W. Turner**, whose paintings directly influenced French impressionism.

**John Constable** (1776-1837) was one of the greatest English landscape artists. He often painted scenes from the countryside of East Anglia, especially along the River Stour. One of the most famous of these paintings is “The Hay Wain”. A large collection of his work was given by his daughter to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

**William Turner** (1774-1851) a major English artist, famous for his landscape and seascape paintings. His style had a great influence on later artistic movements. Turner spent much of his life travelling widely in Britain and Europe, doing drawings for his paintings. His best-known paintings include “The Fighting Temeraire and Rain”, Steam and Speed”, both of which are in the National gallery in London. Many of his paintings are in the Tate Gallery.

**The paintings of the 20th century**

Britain has produced many artists in the 20th century. They include sculptors **Jacob Epstein** and **Dame Elisabeth Frink**, who both produced monumental figures. Painters include **Paul Nash**, a war artist who painted scenes of landscapes and battles during both world wars; **Sir Stanley Spencer**, whose works often used biblical themes; and **Graham Sutherland**, who developed a unique style of landscape painting. After World War II such artists as **Francis Bacon**, whose paintings are steeped in the horrific and **David Hockney**, who also designed opera sets, became noted for their unique achievements.

## British Architecture

The most famous English architects of the 17th century were **Inigo Jones** and **Christopher Wren**.

**Inigo Jones** (1573-1652), an English architect and stage designer who introduced an Italian style to Britain. Among his buildings are the Queen’s House, Greenwich and Lincoln’s Inn Fields in London.

**Christopher Wren** (1632-1723) one of the most famous English architects, known especially for designing the present St Paul’s Cathedral (where he is buried) and other churches in London that replaced those destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Among other buildings he designed are Chelsea Hospital, The Royal Naval College. He was also a scientist and astronomer and one of the group of people who established the Royal Society.

The most famous architect of the 20th century was **Charles Rennic Mackintosh** (1868-1928). He produced buildings, furniture and decorative objects. His best-known buildings are the Glasgow School of Art and National Theatre of London. He is also known for his watercolour paintings, done mainly in France.

### British Literature

The greatest English writer of the Middle Ages was **Geoffrey Chaucer**, who wrote “The Canterbury Tales” in the late 14th century.

The most popular and widely known writer **William Shakespeare** appeared in the 16th century. He wrote 35 plays, 154 sonnets. His best known plays include “Romeo and Juliet”, “King Lear”, “Hamlet”.

The middle of the 18th century is presented by **Daniel Defoe** and **Jonathan Swift**. Daniel Defoe wrote “Robinson Crusoe” and number of other popular adventure novels. Anglo-Irish satirist Jonathan Swift authored “Gulliver’s Travels”.

At the end of the 18th century the romantic movement in literature began. **Lord Byron, Percy Shelly** and **John Keats** wrote romantic poetry. Scottish author **Sir Walter** **Scott**, whose most famous work is “Ivanhoe”, wrote more than 20 historical novels.

Women also made their mark as writers during the romantic period. **Mary Shelley** is noted for the Gothic novel “Frankenstein”. **Jane Austen** wrote clever, elegant novels such as “Sense and Sensibility” and “Pride and Prejudice”.

During the 19th century the Victorian era produced an amazing number of popular novelist and poets. The most famous author of this time was **Charles Dickens**. His most famous works include “Oliver Twist”, “A Christmas Carol” and “David Copperfield”. Writers prominent during this period include the **Bronte sisters** – **Charlotte, Emily** and **Anne** – whose novels tended to be autobiographical, **Robert Louis Stevenson**, who wrote children’s books, adventure stories and poetry. Stevenson’s “Treasure Island”, “The Kidnapper”, “The Black Arrow”, have been among the best-read children’s books for more a century.

Speaking about the 20th century we mention the names of **Rudyard Kipling** and **E.M. Forster.** Exotic and foreign places are the settings of works by these authors. Forster’s novels became popular in the 1980s and 1990s as films, including “A Room with a View” and “A Passage to India”.

**J.R.R. Tolkein** is famous for his fantasy novels, particularly “The Hobbit” (1937) and its sequel, the trilogy “Lord of the Rings” (1954-1955).

**Answer the questions:**

1. What famous portrait painters do you know?
2. Who was the first president of the Royal Academy of Arts in Britain?
3. Who is considered to be creator of the English school of landscape panting?
4. What landscape painters can you name?
5. Who was the major seascape painter in the 18th century?
6. What major English architects of the 17th century do you know?
7. What famous church did Ch. Wren design?
8. What prominent English writers do you know?