

## What to do: May 24 2013



This week, it was back to school but with a difference.

The classroom was the private dining room at Koffmann's at The Berkeley Hotel, school slops lunch was replaced by Pierre Koffmann's signature Gascon cooking and the class was taught by art history super lecturer Linda Smith (who lectures at both Tate Britain and Tate Modern).

I was dipping my toe into London Art Studies; intimate, sophisticated and fun one-day art history courses, the brainchild of Kate Gordon (ex-Sotheby's and CNN). Using her well-stuffed address book, Gordon has plucked some of London's best lecturers specializing in a broad range of periods and popped-up a class that runs throughout the year. Apart from learning, eating

and nattering - the other joy about London Art Studies is that there's no commitment. Go to just one class a year - or three a week if you fancy.

I can highly recommend the lecture day I attended, called 'Great Tarts in Art; High Culture and the Oldest Profession.' It was fun and fascinating learning about history's bad girls (Harriette Wilson, Annie Miller, Lillie Langtry amongst others) and how 'clothing them in art' made, basically pornographic images acceptable.

"Learn. Art. Lunch." is Kate Gordon's motto. I'd like to add to that - school is wasted on the young.

[www.londonartstudies.com](http://www.londonartstudies.com)