

# SEMINAR 11

## STANLEY SPENCER: KEY CONCEPTS & IDEAS

- the epitome of a peculiarly British type of artist
- once dubbed by critics as ‘the divine fool of the British art’
- sex, domesticity and religious experience were considered hallmarks of his art
- born, lived and painted in the archetypal English village of Cookham, Berkshire
- known for his paintings of Biblical scenes based in his native village

## VOCABULARY TO DESCRIBE SPENCER AND HIS PAINTINGS

- the sight of pain and death bred in him a habit of using art to dream of better worlds
- an amelioration of war in art
- portrays the ordinary with a kind of passion
- a quaint combination of cosiness and sexiness
- a fantasy of reversion to some soft remembered domestic bliss
- religious events taking place in one’s native village
- Christ enthroned in the Church doorway
- God the father leaning over the back of the throne
- a row of prophets including Moses
- to hold the tablets of the Ten Commandments
- people resurrecting from their tombs
- a group of black people emerging from sun-baked soil
- painting containing strong autobiographical elements
- a half-hidden figure in a striped dress
- in the ivy-covered tomb
- surrounded by a spiked fence
- Spencer’s appetite for the body of his wife was not reciprocated
- to be held back from possessing his wife
- the body of a naked woman is not only an object of desire but also veneration
- to deify sb (e.g. a woman)
- to embark on a disastrous relationship with another woman
- a sad and disturbing double nude portrait
- the wrinkles in her flesh
- the sags in her body
- a photographic quality about his pictures
- to hide one’s painting under the bed for fear that one may be clapped in jail for pornography
- to be a very worldly picture