



Friends of the Hatton Gallery

Bulletin

October 2013

Chairpiece

On 16th September the Times ran an article entitled, "*The 20 paintings you should know*". Rachel Campbell-Johnston gave her list in chronological order, beginning with the Chauvet cave paintings from c30,000 BC and ending with *Gas Chamber* by Luc Tuymans from 1986. Of course such a list is subjective and one can find justification for any list, but it made me wonder what my 20 favourites might be. Twenty is quite a long list for a chairpiece, so I tried to whittle it down quite a lot, and I came up with the following artists, movements and works, which have influenced me and my practise.

1. *Night and Day*, both by Jacob Epstein for London Transport. These are the first works of art that I remember making an impression upon me. I was about 5 when I first saw these in an encyclopaedia, and I kept returning to them and trying to draw them. The solidity and apparent simplicity of the work still appeals. Epstein was an innovator and inspiration to some of our greatest 20th Century sculptors, such as Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth.
2. *La Primavera*, by Sandro Botticelli. When I was at school and studying art for the first time, I was struck by the technical brilliance of the Renaissance artists, and I loved the classical themed paintings in particular. I could never achieve that skill with paint, but it provided something to aim for, apart from the joy of studying them.
3. The Tahiti paintings and sculptures of Gauguin. I have always been fascinated by colour and the way colours behave in relation to each other. Gauguin's use of colour seemed to break new ground, and his way of painting figures brought the languid, 'mañana' lifestyle of the Pacific islands to life so clearly.
4. The *Death* drawings and prints of Käthe Kollwitz. I knew some of Kollwitz's work before I saw any in reality. I was completely overcome by the power of these particular works when I visited an exhibition in Cologne. I was so moved that I found myself weeping and had to sit down. In particular, the drawing, *Mother with dead child*, was so full of pathos, despair and pain that I could almost hear the mother wailing her grief.
5. Japanese art of the Edo period (1600-1868) and particularly *ukiyo-e*, or the art of the floating world. This is the Japanese printmaking movement inspired by the ladies of the Yoshiwara, commonly called geisha (art persons). The great exponents of this movement did not confine themselves to depicting geisha, but included actors of the Kabuki theatre and scenes of everyday life, such as travellers on the Hokkaido Road, views of Mount Fuji and scenes of Edo (modern day Tokyo). These works apparently came to Europe as packing in crates of ceramics. This serendipitous arrival coincided with the rise of Impressionism and a freer fashion of painting. Van Gogh, among others, certainly had access to them, and he even made his own versions of several, e.g. Van Gogh's *Japonaiserie: Bridge in Rain* is so similar to Hiroshige's *Ohashi Bridge, Sudden Shower near Atake*, that there can be little doubt that he had at least seen the Japanese print.

Having started on this quest, I could go on forever, amending and adding to the list. It is a long time since I was a child admiring Epstein's sculpture and Botticelli's paintings, but I still do. My own painting style has been much influenced by Gauguin's. I was moved to learn some Japanese by my discovery of Japanese art, and my printmaking has been influenced by Kollwitz and Ukiyo-e. I wonder what members would list as the five artists or movements that have influenced their work or tastes the most? I would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to contact me at the email address:- vc@blueyonder.co.uk.

Vhairi Cardinal

Electronic mailing

Please inform our Membership Secretary, Richard Thompson, if you wish to receive your Bulletins by email. By doing so a significant saving can be made in our postage and printing costs. We can also get information out to you very quickly.

Friends of the Hatton Contacts

Chairman: Vhairi Cardinal. 6 Beverley Park, Monkseaton, NE25 8JL vcar@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer: John Dance. 41 Trajan Avenue, South Shields, NE33 2AN jdance23@ymail.com

Membership Secretary: Richard Thompson 3 Callaly Road, Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland. NE66 4SL richard.r.thompson@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Events

The Friends of the Hatton Christmas Exhibition of Small Works

will be held in the Galleria of the Great North Museum:Hancock, Friday 6th Dec - Sunday 5th Jan 2014. This will be an exhibition of small works, no longer than 30cm in each direction (including frame).

The Official Opening of Exhibition will be on Friday 6th December, 4pm to 5pm at the Hancock's Galleria, followed by Wine and Refreshments 5pm to 7pm in the Seminar Room, to the left of the Art Material Shop, Department of Fine Art.

Please fill-in the reply slip to show interest in the Official Opening.

Tuesday 22nd October

Lecture by Malcolm Yorke on Josef Herman

Josef Herman (1911-2000) was a Polish-born painter who fled to England during the second world war. He came from an artistic tradition unlike our English one looking to northern European Expressionism rather than French Expressionism for inspiration. His pictures of Welsh miners, European peasants, nudes and landscapes appear challenging at first encounter. Critics such as Kenneth Clark, Eric Newton, John Berger and Quintin Bell helped establish his reputation here as a major painter.

**To be held in the Seminar Room - 6.30 Wine and nibbles. Lecture 7.00 to 9-00pm.
Booking Essential – See Booking Form**

Saturdays 23rd & 30th November 10am – 4pm

Pinhole Workshop

A two day event led by Alysia Trackim and Vhairi Cardinal

Pinhole photography has lived through an impressive history from ancient Chinese texts to the present day. It is, in its simplest forms, a camera without a lens. Instead, a small hole, the *pinhole*, is punctured through a light-tight chamber, allowing a small amount of light to pour in and expose a light sensitive material (usually paper or film). The results are always pleasantly surprising, soft, and ghostlike. This workshop will teach you the history of pinhole photography, why and how it works- *all while you build your own*. Space is limited, so please book early to secure your place.

Fee £20, this includes all supplies and equipment.

Newcastle University printshop, 4th Floor, entrance via Hatton Gallery

Please complete the Booking Form

PRINT WORKSHOPS January 18th and February 1st 2014

Tutor Caroline Coode

The workshops will offer collagraph and acetate drypoint. Both techniques are suitable for beginners and both can be used with colour offset as a two plate process. Each day will be complete in itself. Two together offer time for a fuller exploration of either medium. 8 places on each day. More details in the next Bulletin. £18 each or £30 for both. Some materials provided.

Not to be overlooked As a Friend of the Hatton you may use the Robinson Library for research - and also benefit from a 10% discount on goods at the Gallery's front desk- there is now a facility for bank cards. Please show a current membership card.

Events Booking Forms

Please complete and return before Friday 22nd November 2013
Jean Taylor, 94 Celandine Way, Windy Nook, Gateshead, NE10 8QW
Email: jeantaylor0171@btinternet.com Telephone: 0191 4227989

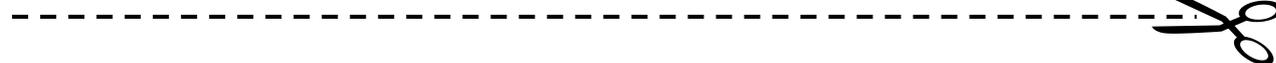
I/we would like to reserve.....places for the

Official Opening of the Christmas Exhibition of Small Works

Name and Address.....

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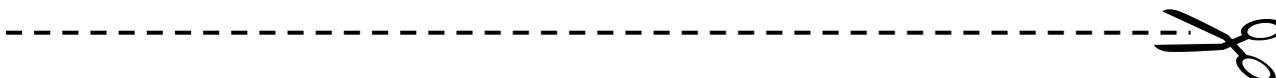
Telephone/email.....



To reserve places for the

Lecture by Malcolm Yorke on Josef Herman

Please contact ASAP by phone or email Jean Taylor:-
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I/we would like to reserve.....places for the **Pinhole Workshop**

Cost per person £20. I/we enclose a cheque made payable to FOTH for £.....

Name and Address.....

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Telephone/email.....

