

The London Group at 100

9 February - 21 April 2013

Mottisfont, near Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 0LP

Private View, 8 February, 6pm-8pm



Graham Sutherland, Welsh Landscape

Contemporary paintings, sculpture, photography, video and performance art by 40 current members of The London Group join historic works by former members including L.S. Lowry, Graham Sutherland, Vanessa Bell and Walter Sickert at the National Trust's Mottisfont.

For 100 years, The London Group, has been showing ground-breaking contemporary art to new audiences in the UK. To celebrate its centenary, 40 current members are installing their latest work in at the National Trust's Mottisfont alongside its collection of historic works by famous London Group members, all radical artists in their day.

The contemporary works range from paintings, sculpture, to video and performance art. Highlights include 'La Reine Margot', an installation by Suzan Swale made with paint and dresses; paintings by Anthony Whishaw RA and Victor Kuell; a video piece entitled 'Equivalent I-VIII' by Amanda

Loomes, performances by Lydia Julien and digital work by Bryan Bengé who was instrumental in organising the exhibition.



"Mottisfont has always had a special meaning for me. I always remember my first visit. As my mother and I walked through the beautifully decorated and arranged rooms, I began to discover paintings by Sickert and Gilman (both founder members of The London Group in 1913). The biggest surprise for me was the discovery of the alluring Gallery on the top floor at Mottisfont. From these experiences the idea began to form to approach Mottisfont to see if they would host a London Group show in our Centenary Year. The House and history continued to surprise us as The London Group discovered that Maud Russells' friend Derek Hill had been a keen collector of our early members' work. This exciting show of The London Group at 100 thus strengthens the connection for both The London Group and the National Trust at Mottisfont." **Bryan Bengé**

The historic works on show are part of Mottisfont's Derek Hill Collection that contains twenty one-major works by London Group members and include a series of integral mosaics by Boris Anrep, paintings by Michael Andrews, Vanessa Bell, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Roger Fry, Harold Gilman, L.S. Lowry, Victor Pasmore, John Piper, W.R. Sickert and Graham Sutherland.

The London Group

The London Group was set up in 1913 by thirty two artists including Robert Bevan, Henri Gaudier Brzeska, Jacob Epstein, Duncan Grant, Wyndham Lewis, Lucien Pissarro and Walter Sickert, with the aim of creating a powerful artist-run exhibiting body to act as a counter balance to institutions such as the Royal Academy. The founding group created a structure for a democratically-run organisation with a mentoring and exhibiting programme that has gone on to support the careers

of many of Britain's best-known artists. Craigie Atchison, Frank Auerbach, Frank Bowling, Mary Fedden, Elisabeth Frink, Terry Frost, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney, L.S. Lowry, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland, and are among hundreds of British artists who, from their post-graduate years through to the height of success, have benefitted from membership to The London Group.



David Redfern, *The God Particles*

Mottisfont

Every great house bears some of the personality of its previous owners, and at Mottisfont it is the enigmatic Maud Russell, the last private owner. Middle class, foreign, Jewish and artistic, her arrival marked a break with the relative sobriety of the past. Maud Russell made Mottisfont into a vibrant hub of artistic activity. She invited many modern British artists, critics and designers for long weekends.

London Group member Boris Anrep was one of Maud Russell's closest friends, and her long-term lover. A Russian émigré, Anrep was a creative whirlwind – he made complex mosaics that commented on contemporary life, painted, wrote poetry. He visited Mottisfont many times and created two mosaics for the house, one of which depicts an angel with the face of Maud Russell.

Other members of The London Group also visited, particularly those associated with the Bloomsbury Group. The painter Derek Hill knew many London Group artists, both through encounters at Mottisfont and in London. When he began his own collection, these artists featured strongly. He honoured his long friendship with Maud and his many happy visits to her estate by leaving a substantial collection of 20th-century art to Mottisfont.



Art at Mottisfont

In addition to displaying the Derek Hill Collection, Mottisfont also presents a changing programme of art exhibitions all year round in light-filled gallery spaces on the first floor. It also runs a programme of co-creative artists' residencies, 'A Place for Art', supported by Arts Council England – follow current artist in residence Anna Cady's blog at ntmottisfontaplaceforart.wordpress.com.

The London Group at 100

9 February - 21 April 2013

Mottisfont, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0LP

Tel: 01794 340757

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

Email: mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facebook /Mottisfont, National Trust

Twitter @MottisfontNT,

Open: Daily – grounds, shop & café open 10am, gallery 11am–5pm. Last entry is at 4.30pm

Admission: Free to entry the gallery; normal admission to the property applies (free to National Trust members, otherwise £11 for adults, £5.50 for children, £26 for families).

Car: Signposted off A3057 Romsey to Stockbridge. Also signposted off B3084 Romsey to Broughton.

Rail: Dunbridge 1½ miles.

Press Contacts

Contact sheet of images available at the press section at

www.thelondongroup.com

London Group Centenary Year: jessica@artsinform.co.uk (07939 226988)

Mottisfont: louise.govier@nationaltrust.org.uk (07917 212561);

or joanna.crosse@nationaltrust.org.uk (07766 206050).



Tommy Seaward, Prelude (095)

CURRENT LONDON GROUP ARTISTS EXHIBITING AT MOTTISFONT:

Moich Abrahams, Victoria Amey, Victoria Bartlett, Bryan Benge, Slawomir Blatton, Paul & Laura Carey, Robert Clarke, Peter Clossick, John Crossley, Philip Crozier, Harvey Daniels, James Faure Walker, Tricia Gillman, Susan Haire, Marcelle Hanselaar, Bill Henderson, Jane Humphrey, Gillian Ingham, Lydia Julien, Victor Kuell, Amanda Loomes, Graham Miles, C. Morey de Morand, Charlotte C. Mortensson, Kathleen Mullaniff, Janet Nathan, Eugene Palmer, Ian Parker, Janet Patterson, Victoria Rance, David Redfern, Tommy Seaward, Philippa Stjemsward, Suzan Swale, David Tebbs, Paul Tecklenberg, Mike Thorpe, Philippa Tunstill, Neil Weerdmeester, Anthony Whishaw RA, Susan Wilson, Erika Winstone.

Historic works by Michael Andrews, Boris Anrep, Vanessa Bell, John Bratby, Anthony Fry, Roger Fry, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Harold Gilman, Augustus John, LS Lowry, Robert Medley, Victor Pasmore, John Piper, Mary Potter, W.R. Sickert, Graham Sutherland.