

LONDON ART FAIR PARTNERS WITH SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY TO BRING THEIR 'DESIGNATED' COLLECTION TO THE CAPITAL



- Southampton City Art Gallery presents *Gallery 80: From Generous Beginnings to Lasting Legacies* at London Art Fair 2020, an exhibition highlighting the Gallery's outstanding collection of modern British and contemporary art, which earned 'Designated' status from Arts Council England in 1998.
- The exhibition will reveal the depth and variety of Southampton's evolving collection of modern and contemporary painting and sculpture with 25 important works by Walter Sickert, L.S. Lowry, Stanley Spencer, Helen Chadwick, Maggi Hambling and Christopher Le Brun, among others.
- Southampton City Art Gallery is the official Museum Partner of London Art Fair, which brings exceptional modern and contemporary art to the UK capital from 22-26 January 2020 (Preview 21 January).

For the 2020 edition, London Art Fair has partnered with Southampton City Art Gallery to present a selection of around 25 paintings and sculptures that demonstrate the strength of the City's modern British and contemporary holdings.

Founded in 1911 with a bequest from Southampton Councillor Robert Chipperfield, and with a further bequest from Councillor Frederick William Smith in 1925, the collection today holds over 5,000 works covering six centuries of European art history and is considered one of the finest collections in the south of England.

The collection continues to grow through acquisitions, gifts and bequests and, although the Gallery has important holdings of pre-1900s painting, it is principally known for housing some of the finest British modern and contemporary works in the UK, including over 30 Turner Prize winners and nominees.

Following its 80th anniversary in 2019, Southampton City Art Gallery will exhibit at London Art Fair in January 2020 to showcase a selection of works that are significant to the history of the Gallery; including pieces by Walter Sickert, L.S. Lowry, Stanley Spencer, Ben Nicholson, Helen Chadwick, Maggi Hambling, Christopher Le Brun and Bob and Roberta Smith.

The selection will highlight the remarkable expansion of the collection over the last 80 years, which has helped to transform Southampton into a leading cultural destination boasting one of the finest collections in the south of England.

Highlights will include *The Floating Bridge* by L.S. Lowry who visited Southampton in 1954, taking the chain ferry or 'floating bridge' across the River Itchen to the city centre. Lowry subsequently created two paintings of the floating bridge from memory, with this one being purchased by the Gallery in 1956. It remains one of the most popular paintings in the collection amongst Southampton residents.



Another highlight will be *Loading Timber at Southampton Docks*, 1918 by C.R.W. Nevinson (right). During the First World War Nevinson experienced the horrors of modern warfare which inspired some of his most powerful work. He was later appointed an Official War Artist and passed through Southampton on his way to France. This dynamic painting shows the influence of Futurism and Cubism on Nevinson's art with its emphasis on geometric shapes and patterns, machinery and movement. It was acquired by the Gallery in 1962 and is a key part of Southampton's reputed early 20th century post-impressionist holdings which reveal the birth of modern art in Britain.

Clare Mitchell, Curator of Art at Southampton City Art Gallery, said: *"I am thrilled that Southampton City Art Gallery is the Museum Partner for the 2020 edition of London Art Fair. We are proud of the collection and find presenting it in different ways both enlightening and rewarding. To have the opportunity to showcase a taste of the collection at London Art Fair will allow us to shout even louder about its importance, inspiring people to visit and discover its true merits in the narrative of art history."*

Councillor Satvir Kaur, Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture, said: *"We are delighted to be the official Museum Partner for the 2020 London Art Fair. Now in its 80th year, Southampton City Art Gallery's collection grows from strength to strength and continues to put our City on the map. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to show off some of the major highlights from our collection on a significant international stage. This is another great step towards our bid to become 'City of Culture' in 2025, firmly putting Southampton at the forefront of the UK's cultural offer."*

British Artist Christopher Le Brun, said: *"Southampton City Art Gallery has an exceptional collection that is particularly well balanced between historic and contemporary work. What was impressive about their policy was to refresh the collection continually with new paintings, frequently ambitious large-scale paintings. An outstanding city collection housed in a purpose-built gallery, Southampton City Art Gallery is, to me, an exemplar of civic collecting."*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

LONDON ART FAIR

22 - 26 January 2020 (Preview 21 January)

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

www.londonartfair.co.uk

Tickets: £22, £17 in advance. Full ticket types and prices at: londonartfair.co.uk/tickets.

For our latest news, follow @LondonArtFair on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (#LAF20)

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IMAGES (from left to right)

- *The Crescent Wing*, 2009, Johnson © Ben Johnson, All rights reserved DACS, 2019
- *Rabbi and Grandchild*, Gertler © Southampton City Art Gallery
- *In the Park (St James' Park)*, 1911, Drummond © Southampton City Art Gallery
- *Loading Timber at Southampton Docks*, 1917, Nevinson © Southampton City Art Gallery

ABOUT THE MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP

First introduced in 2014 to showcase important regional collections; London Art Fair's annual Museum Partnership has seen collaborations with the Hepworth Wakefield, Pallant House Gallery, Jerwood Gallery, The Lightbox and Towner Art Gallery.

In January 2018 the Fair marked its 30th anniversary edition in partnership with Art UK to stage a unique exhibition of works selected from 22 of the nation's art collections by Rose Wylie, Oscar Murillo, Sonia Boyce, Mat Collishaw and Haroon Mirza; curated by Kathleen Soriano.

Housed in a specially designed pavilion space at the front of the Fair, the Museum Partnership provides a prominent London platform and significant opportunity for patrons, collectors and general Fair visitors to engage with an exhibition of exceptional museum quality works – bringing some of our most important regional private collection into the public domain; whilst highlighting the gallery's broader programme, driving new audiences and supporters.

ABOUT LONDON ART FAIR

London Art Fair will return to London for its 32nd edition in 2020, recognised as a platform for connecting the best galleries from around the world with both seasoned and aspiring collectors, providing a unique opportunity to discover and champion outstanding modern and contemporary art.

The Fair seeks to nurture collecting at all levels whilst providing expert insight into the changing international market. Sitting alongside the main Fair, curated sections Art Projects and Photo50 feature the next generation of artists, collectives and gallerists; showcasing increasingly innovative and interactive ways to engage with art. The Fair's strong gallery line up is also complemented by an

extensive programme of engaging talks, panel discussions, interactive performance art, and onsite activations from the Fair's partners.

Taking place from 22-26 January 2020 (VIP Preview 21 January), London Art Fair is an unmissable opening to the international art calendar. www.londonartfair.co.uk

ABOUT SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY

Southampton City Art Gallery houses an internationally-renowned fine art collections often described as one of the best outside London. The nationally important collections comprise over 5000 art works spanning eight centuries and traces the history of European art from the Renaissance to the present day.

Alongside the collections, a regular programme of temporary exhibitions in collaboration with leading artists and arts institutions are displayed in the stunning art deco building, opened in 1939 by Councillor Robert Chipperfield for the people of Southampton in his adopted city.

Southampton City Art Gallery offers the opportunity to enjoy high quality exhibitions and attracts art-lovers, curious amateurs as well as those who simply enjoy the atmosphere of a gallery. www.southamptoncityartgallery.com



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

ABOUT BLACKWALL GREEN

Blackwell Green is delighted to support Southampton City Art Gallery and London Art Fair.

For over 50 years, insurance specialists Blackwall Green has arranged insurance for treasured collections, major exhibitions and leading galleries throughout the world. They are dedicated to improving insurance and providing an informed, responsive service, and welcome the opportunity to advise clients and others on any insurance matters. The attention to detail and commitment to their clients that they have demonstrated for over half a century has established their reputation as a leading art and museum insurance broker.

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Hiscox is delighted to support Southampton City Art Gallery and London Art Fair.



ABOUT AIRSEA PACKING

AirSea Packing have been at the forefront of white glove shipping and logistics for over 50 years, firmly establishing themselves as a global leader in fine art logistics and storage. Today Airsea Packing have offices in London, Paris, New York, Atlanta, Miami, Dallas, Washington D.C, Chicago, Phoenix, and Los Angeles, offering one of the biggest networks in the industry and catering to the bespoke needs of interior designers, antique dealers, art galleries, museums, global luxury brands and private individuals.



ABOUT TM LIGHTING

TM Lighting is delighted to support Southampton City Art Gallery as the Museum Partner Lighting Sponsor of London Art Fair 2020.

TM Lighting manufactures exceptional LED lighting products for the art market including internationally significant collections earning industry recognition as the UK's leading art lighting specialist. TM Lighting picture lights and accent lights bring art to life within residences, stately homes, galleries and contemporary spaces. Recent projects include the Rothschild Foundation, English Heritage Wellington Collection, Historic Royal Palaces, London Design Festival at V&A Museum, Damien Hirst's 'Pegasus' at *Brasserie of Light*, Selfridges, Sotheby's Old Masters Sale at Victoria Beckham. www.tmlighting.com

