



18 July 2021

MEDIA RELEASE:

King's Lynn Festival 70th Anniversary Exhibition

King's Lynn Festival's visual arts tradition matches the high quality of its music programme – and this year is no exception. **Past Times, New Horizons** celebrates the festival's 70th anniversary by showcasing the work of a selection of artists whose work has been displayed over the years.

One highlight is the recently restored portrait of Festival founder, Ruth Lady Fermoy, painted in 1954 by **Anthony Devas**.

The exhibition also provides a striking reminder of the many world-famous names who have taken part in the festival over the years. Photographic portraits which used to hang on the staircase in the Guildhall - including Benjamin Britten, Dame Sybil Thorndike and Kathleen Ferrier - have been restored, and thanks to the generosity of Sir Ian McKellen they will continue to be a reminder of the festival's illustrious history.

Artists whose work is featured in the Fermoy Gallery and Red Barn at St George's Guildhall Courtyard include **Edward Seago, Harry Barr, Hugh Casson, Duncan Grant, Alfred Cohen** and **Ana Maria Pacheco**. Among contemporary artists, whose work is featured are **Ivy Smith, Jon Harris** and **Hazel Burgess**. Works encompass the mediums of painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, print-making and glass. Some works are for sale.

Festival board member Lady Jane Fellowes, granddaughter of festival founder Ruth, Lady Fermoy, undertook the task of bringing together works of art for the landmark 70th exhibition with professional curator, Dr Claudia Milburn.

"Our initial plan was to bring together works representing seven disciplines and the festival's seven decades, but we discovered a great wealth of exciting and interesting material with an extraordinary history. As a result, there will be more than 100 works on display. They celebrate the history of the festival exhibitions which have been remarkable for their huge variety. This display has been made possible by an extraordinary network of connections. We have had no difficulty filling the space," said Lady Jane Fellowes

The exhibition opens on 18 July 18 and continues until 14 August from 11am-4pm. Admission is free.

Full programme details at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

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For further information, photos and interview requests contact Claire Bowdler, King's Lynn Festival Marketing Manager – claire@kingslynnfestival.org.uk / 07801 538053