



PRESS RELEASE

28 May 2024

Peace to Pop: British Art 1945-1980

part of King's Lynn Festival 2024

The 2024 King's Lynn Festival annual exhibition focuses on some of the landmark developments in art and design between 1945 and 1980. The exhibition at the **Fermoy Gallery** opens **on Saturday 13 July** and runs until **Sunday 4 August**. **Entry is free** and Peace to Pop is open daily from 11am-4pm. The exhibition is in association with **Goldmark Art**, which specialises in 20th century and contemporary art and ceramics.

Though times after the Second World War were austere for Britain, there were feelings that things would soon improve and a new era would shortly be dawning, artists and designers being among those leading the way. The Arts Council of Great Britain was instituted in 1945 to provide financial support for cultural initiatives, the Edinburgh Festival was established in 1947, closely followed by the Aldeburgh, Bath and King's Lynn Festivals, and the Festival of Britain opened in 1951, many artists, designers and architects providing work for "A Tonic for the Nation". The Institute for Contemporary Art was established in 1946, while in 1964 the first Minister for the Arts, Jennie Lee, was appointed by Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

In the world of fine art, the period which this exhibition covers cannot be defined by a single movement. There were many, and they were evolving fast. At one extreme there was representational art with its roots in the past; at the other, Pop Art and Abstract Expressionism challenged the public's perception of what constitutes modern art. American artists were highly influential, key exhibitions of their work being sent over by New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) to the Tate Gallery in 1956 and 1959. **Peace to Pop** presents works by **Henry Moore, Peter Blake, Graham Sutherland, David Hockney, Allan Jones, Eduardo Paolozzi, Sandra Blow, Patrick Caulfield and Gordon House**. Most of the artworks can be purchased.

Robert Anderson exhibition curator comments: *"British art movements in the mid-20th century were developing fast and created a vibrant contribution to cultural life. Peace to Pop conveys the excitement which art can bring to our lives."*

A series of workshops, films and talks are being held in conjunction with the exhibition, offering further insight into the art of the period. Art historian, critic and biographer, **Frances Spalding** explores how a sense of optimism encouraged fresh developments in the post-war period in her **talk, From Cornwall to Catterline on Sunday 14 July at 7pm at St George's Guildhall**. The exhibition will be open until 7pm for audiences to enjoy the artworks ahead of the talk.

Afternoon film screenings at St George's Guildhall in conjunction with Peace to Pop reveal some of the artists whose work is displayed. On **Sunday 14 July at 1pm** an exhibition on screen explores the life's work

of **Lucien Freud**. A double-bill on **Tuesday 16 July at 1pm** includes **Ken Russell's playful film on the Young British Artists** of the 1960s and John Reid's masterful profile of **Henry Moore**. John Maybury's audacious film, ***Love is the Devil: Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon*** charts the powerful and dangerous relationship between the artist and his lover and muse on **Wednesday 17 July at 2pm**.

On Saturday 13 July, two printmaking workshops, one for families and another for adults, will give participants a chance to try various print-making techniques and take home their very own piece of Pop Art. All ages are also invited to drop in to the **Red Barn on Saturday 20 July** and create their very own Pop Art collage (free entry).

Exhibition sponsored by Hawkins Ryan Solicitors, Guella Trust and Klaus & Lissie Macfarlane. Associated workshops sponsored by Learning Resources Ltd.

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Fermoy Gallery, 7-9 St George's Courtyard, Off King Street, King's Lynn PE30 1EU

A press photo opportunity will be available starting from 11th July. We kindly request that you contact us in advance to schedule your visit.

Images can be downloaded from https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1piCtL-ri8o-05_X56E5Evrbp46ZKJCuc?usp=sharing

Press information for King's Lynn Festival and to schedule a visit contact Claire Bowdler, Marketing Consultant - claire@kingslynnfestival.org.uk / 07801 538053

Press information for Goldmark Gallery contact Steve Roberts email robertslaurence@mac.com telephone + 44 (0) 7788 426847

Note to editors

King's Lynn Festival, now in its 73rd year, continues to provide high-quality performances of classical music, recitals, choral performances, jazz, folk, talks, walks, exhibitions and films. The Festival features internationally renowned performers and uses beautiful historic venues around the town, including England's largest surviving Medieval Guildhall. The Festival's ongoing success has helped establish King's Lynn as a Festival Town, and is especially known for bringing new compositions to audiences as part of its broad programme of music and arts.

Box Office: 01553 764864 | www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

Goldmark Gallery Uppingham is an art and ceramics gallery, a four times RTS nominated film producer, book publisher, printmaker and scholarship hub. A selling gallery of national and international significance it has stood at the heart of the English market town of Uppingham, 90 minutes from London, for 50 years. During the pandemic it invested yet more in its print workshop, launched an online tv channel and saw its sales rise by 49% from 2019-2021 with customers from 34 countries [plus the UK]. **The Sunday Times**

recently called the gallery 'extraordinary' and cited its importance in making Uppingham the best place to live in the Midlands.

Due to the Gallery's investment in and support of artists and ceramicists, it now holds more than 50,000 items of stock, represents the estates of several major 20th century artists. Goldmark has exclusive European [and sometimes Global] sales rights for some of the world's major potters from Japan and Korea, to Denmark, the UK and the USA and in 2021 its ceramic sales alone exceeded £1million.

Goldmark holds the estate of, amongst others, artist printmaker Michael Rothenstein [1908-93] and Anthony Gross CBE RA [1905-84]. Goldmark's tailored exhibitions of Picasso, Matisse, Miró, Chagall and other limited edition prints tour UK commercial galleries every year.

Goldmark's quarterly magazine, print atelier and framing shop complete a comprehensive portfolio of excellence that is unmatched in the private sector.

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