

EXHILARATING ENERGIES FROM THE EAST: THE IMPACT OF ARTIST-ÉMIGRÉS
FROM EASTERN EUROPE ON BRITISH CULTURE, 1900-1950'S

Kingston Museum and Kingston University, 26-27 February 2009.

Supported by the Visual and Material Culture Centre (VAMCRC), Kingston University

Conference Structure:

Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, 26 February 2009

5.30-6.30 pm: Richard Cork, Independent Scholar - (*David Bomberg, From the 'Steel City' to the 'Spirit in the Mass'*)

Reception at the Museum: 6.30-7.30 pm [There will be an opportunity to view the 'Dora Gordine and Her Artistic Contemporaries' Section of *Dora Gordine: Sculptor, Artist, Designer*].

Kingston University, 27 February 2009, Room JG 1002, John Galsworthy Building, Penryhn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames

9.30-10 am: Registration and Coffee/Tea (Room JG 1003)

10-11 am: Morning Keynote Speech, Professor Steven Mansbach, University of Maryland – (*Modern Art in the Eastern Baltic and Its British Resonance*)

11-11.15 am: Morning Coffee/Tea Break (Room JG 1003)

11.15-11.45 am: Sarah MacDougall, Ben Uri Gallery, The London Jewish Museum of Art (*From Eastern Europe to the East End: Mark Gertler and the Whitechapel Boys*)

11.45-12.15 pm: Dr. Jonathan Black, Kingston University (*A Legend from Estonia? Dora Gordine's Complex Baltic Heritage*)

12.30-1.30 pm: Lunch (Sandwiches, coffee and tea etc provided in Room JG 1003)

1.30-2.30 pm: 'Forced Journey's: Artists in Exile in Britain c.1933-45': Dr. Jonathan Black in conversation with Sarah MacDougall and Rachel Dickson, Curators of the current exhibition at the Ben Uri Gallery, the London Jewish Museum of Art.

2.30-3 pm: Professor Fran Lloyd, Kingston University (*The Face of our Times: Ernst Eisenmayer, Charoux and Frink*)

3-3.30 pm: Afternoon Coffee/Tea Break (Room JG 1003)

3.30-4.30 pm: Henry Meyric Hughes, Honorary President of the International Society of Art Critics (*Europa Rinasces: Questions of Artistic Identity in Europe - The Cold War and Beyond*)

4.30-4.45 pm: Questions to HM Hughes and final comments from organisers.

4.45 pm: Conference Closes.

Speaker Biographies:

Dr. Jonathan Black

Senior Research Fellow in History of Art, Dorich House Museum. Publications include: *Form, Feeling and Calculation: The Complete Paintings and Drawings of Edward Wadsworth* (Philip Wilson, London, 2006). Co-author of: *Dora Gordine: Sculptor, Artist, Designer* (Philip Wilson, London, 2007); author of: 'Pictures with a Sting': The London Underground and Inter-War Modernist Poster Design', *London Transport Posters: A Century of Art and Design*, eds. David Bownes and Oliver Green (Lund Humphries, London, 2008) and 'Fathoming the British: Hans Schleger and the Art of Poster Design, 1935-45' in *Forced Journey's: Artists in Exile in Britain c.1933-45*, eds. Rachel Dickson and Sarah MacDougall (Ben Uri Gallery, London, 2009).

Dr. Richard Cork

Formerly Art Critic of *The Times*, the *London Evening Standard* and *The Listener*. Now writes regularly for: *The Independent on Sunday*, *The Financial Times* and *The Sunday Times Magazine* as well as a wide range of magazines both in the UK and abroad. Curator of the forthcoming exhibition 'Wild Thing: Eric Gill, Jacob Epstein and Henri Gaudier Brzeska and British Twentieth Century Sculpture', Royal Academy, London, October 2009-January 2010.

Publications include: *Vorticism and Abstract Art in the First Machine Age*, Two Volumes (Gordon Fraser, London, 1976 and 1977); *The Bitter Truth: Avant-Garde Art and the Great War* (Yale University Press, London, 1994); *Jacob Epstein (British Artists)* (Princeton University Press, USA, 1999) and *Annus Mirabilis? Art in the Year 2000*, (Yale University Press, London, 2003).

Rachel Dickson

Rachel Dickson, who has an MA from the Courtauld Institute, has co-curated exhibitions at the Ben Uri since 2002, including the ongoing *Whitechapel Boys* series which focuses on the contribution of the group of Anglo-Jewish artists to early twentieth century British Modernism. Most recently she has worked with Sarah MacDougall on the exhibition *Forced Journeys*, which was partly conceived to complement 'Artists in Exile in Britain 1933-45', a new MA Module at the Courtauld Institute.

Rachel also co-directs an art consultancy advising corporate, private and public sector clients on a variety of contemporary visual arts projects.

Henry Meyric Hughes

Member of the Council of Europe's Group of Consultants on Art Exhibitions, co-ordinating/co-curating their forthcoming triptych of exhibitions, *Art in Europe since 1945*. worked for the British Council (1968-92), ending up as Director of Visual Arts (1986-92). Commissioner for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (1986-92) and Curator of the Cypriot Pavilion (2003). As Director of the Haywood Gallery (2002-6), co-curated *The Spirit of Romanticism in German Art, 1790-1990* (Edinburgh, London, Berlin) and Commissioner

for the Council of Europe's exhibition, *Art and Power. Europe under the Dictators, 1930-1945* (London, Berlin, Barcelona, 1995-6). Other curatorial projects included *The Age of Modernism. Art in the 20th Century*, (Berlin, 2007) and *Blast to Freeze. British Art in the Twentieth Century* (Wolfsburg, Toulouse) and a major project on German art for Weimar City of Culture (1999). Has published widely on modern/contemporary art and served on many international juries and advisory Boards. Appointed Officer des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government (1997); awarded the Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany (2002)

Professor Fran Lloyd

Professor of Art History and Director of Research in the Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture at Kingston University. She has published widely on contemporary visual culture, sculpture, and feminist art practice including *Consuming Bodies: Sex and Consumerism in Contemporary Japanese Art*, *Contemporary Arab Women's Art: Dialogues of the Present*; and *Displacement and Difference: Contemporary Arab Visual Culture in the Diaspora*. Director of the Visual and Material Culture Research Centre at Kingston University, forthcoming publications include *Public Sculpture of Outer South and West London*, Volume in National Series, University of Liverpool Press (2008). She is currently co-editing the book *Diasporic Futures: Women, the Arts and Globalisation*, a collection of essays arising from an international conference held at the V&A in July 2006. Co-author (with Jonathan Black) of the forthcoming book *Subtlety and Strength: The Drawings of Dora Gordine* (Philip Wilson, London, March 2009).

Sarah MacDougall

Art Historian and curator at the Ben Uri Gallery, The London Jewish Museum of Art. Publications include a biography and exhibition catalogue on Mark Gertler: *Mark Gertler* (John Murray, London, 2002) and *Mark Gertler: A New Perspective* (Ben Uri Gallery, London, 2002). She has also co-curated (with Rachel Dickson) a series of exhibitions on the Whitechapel Boys including: *Re-discovering Wolmark: a pioneer of British modernism* (2004), *Embracing the Exotic: Jacob Epstein and Dora Gordine* (Ben Uri Gallery, London, 2006) and *Whitechapel at War: Isaac Rosenberg and His Circle* (Ben Uri Gallery, London, 2008), as well as the current exhibition, *Forced Journeys: Artists in Exile in Britain c.1933-45* (Ben Uri Gallery, London, 2009).

Professor Steven A. Mansbach

Professor of History of 20th Century Art, University of Maryland, College Park, USA.

A noted Specialist in 20th Century Central and Eastern European Art History.

Publications include: *Standing in the Tempest: Painters of the Hungarian Avant-Garde, 1908-1930* (MIT Press, Cambridge Mass, USA, 1991); *Modern Art in Eastern Europe: From the Baltic to the Balkans, 1890-1940* (New York and Cambridge University Press, 1999) and *Graphic Modernism. From the Baltic to the Balkans: 1910-1935* (New York Public Library and Library of Congress, USA, 2007).