

News release

01227 862 050

www.canterbury.gov.uk/news

communications@canterbury.gov.uk



@TweetCanterbury



facebook.com/CanterburyCityCouncil



Page 1 of 3

January 2017

Picturing Faith: England's religious capital to host major exhibition

One of the UK's most significant collections of modern Christian Art is to go on display at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury from 14th January 2017.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection is a unique gathering of work which has toured the UK and abroad since its inception over forty years ago. Over 40 items will be on display at The Beaney, including work by acclaimed artists Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Edward Burra and Patrick Heron.

The artworks depict Biblical stories and images and feature a fascinating variety of painting techniques. Scenes depicted include 'The Deposition of Christ' (Graham Sutherland) and 'The Lamentation of Christ' (Elisabeth Frink)

Delivered in partnership with Kent College, 'Picturing Faith' will provide a rare opportunity to view one of the most significant collections of contemporary religious art in its entirety.

Simon Sorokos, lead exhibition organiser at Kent College said:

'Kent College is delighted to be working in partnership with The Beaney to bring the Methodist Modern Art Collection to Canterbury. It is unusual for all of the works to be exhibited at once, and some pieces will be on show for the first time. We hope that the work will appeal to people of all ages, and all faiths. We aim to engage the whole community, and we are especially keen to encourage local schools to come and learn from the work on display.'

Joanna Jones, Director of Canterbury Museums & Galleries said:

'Canterbury City Council is delighted to be displaying this wonderful collection of modern art at The Beaney. In addition to the main exhibition, we have an accompanying programme of supporting events and activities planned which are designed to appeal to a wide audience.'

The Methodist art collection is now looked after by trustees with the aim of enabling people to explore Christian faith and teachings through the medium of art.

The Beaney exhibition is kindly supported by Kent College and will be on display in the Special Exhibitions Room between Saturday 14th January and Sunday 23rd April.

...MORE

PICTURING FAITH AT THE BEANEY – 2/3

The main exhibition will be accompanied by a series of associated events for all faiths or none, including an exhibition exploring world faiths and a comprehensive programme for schools.

Admission: Keep us FREE Give £5

With your support, we can continue to showcase world class exhibitions in the heart of Canterbury.

Accompanying events and activities

All Faiths or None?

Saturday 4 February to Sunday 5 March

The Front Room, The Beaney

Pupils from Canterbury Academy and Kent College exhibit work responding to the Beaney's displays of objects and images around the themes of world faiths, superstitions and totems.

Free admission, drop in

Schools Learning Day: Beliefs and Superstitions

Tuesday 7 February, 10am to 2pm

Various Galleries, The Beaney

Take part in an exploration of strange and marvellous beliefs and superstitions through selected objects on display at The Beaney. In addition to an interactive look at the museum artefacts, pupils will have the opportunity to examine their own responses to the theme in a creative session in the learning lab. KS3-5. This is specifically for schools who would like to bring smaller groups to The Beaney. A total of 45 places are available per session. 10am to 12noon and 1 to 3pm. £5.50 per pupil, accompanying teachers free. Advanced booking required. **To book, email learning@canterbury.gov.uk**

Lectures

Richard Cork 'An Act of Faith: Outstanding Art in the Methodist Collection'

20th January, 6pm, Kent College

Dr Peter Forsaith 'Cultural Contradictions? John Wesley, Methodism and art'

3rd February, 7pm, St Peter's Methodist Church

Canon Christopher Irvine 'Shaping colour, and knowing through the body: Ceri Richards in the Methodist Collection'

3rd March, 7pm, Clagett Auditorium, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

For further information about the exhibition and associated events go to

www.thebeaney.co.uk

Full details of the Methodist Modern Art Collection can be found at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/artcollection/index.htm>

...MORE

PICTURING FAITH AT THE BEANEY – 3/3

Notes for editors

Methodist Modern Art Collection FAQs

Why does the Methodist Church have a Modern Art Collection?

Because two people in the 1960s wanted Methodist people to become more aesthetically aware and understand art and faith.

- The works have been bought or commissioned with money given specifically for the purpose: their acquisition has not been a charge on general Methodist Church funds.
- It is now looked after by Trustees (appointed by the Methodist Conference) who pursue the original aim of enabling people inside the church to connect their faith to art but also seek to encourage people outside the church to consider the Christian message presented through the medium of art.

What is in the Collection?

There are over 40 works, including some by well-known artists such as Graham Sutherland, Eric Gill, Elisabeth Frink, William Roberts, Patrick Heron.

- Most of the pictures depict scenes from the life and teaching of Christ: some artists were or are believing Christians, others not.
- Works are still being acquired to ensure that the ideas and concerns of today's artists are represented in the Collection.

Where and when can I see the Collection?

The collection will be on display at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury from Saturday 14th January to Sunday 23rd April in the Special Exhibitions Room. Full details can be found at www.thebeaney.co.uk

ENDS

Contact information:

For **images, interviews** and **further information** please contact: **James Williams,**
Head of Marketing & Audience Development, Canterbury Museums & Galleries

Email: james.williams@canterbury.gov.uk

Tel: 01227 862333

The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge, 18 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RA