

From Pissarro to Kollwitz: The Elizabeth Burney Bequest

27 February – 23 June 2019

A new free exhibition at Pallant House Gallery showcases highlights from a recent bequest donated by Elizabeth Burney (1934-2008). A journalist and criminal psychologist, Burney was a descendent of the 18th century musicologist Charles Burney, and related to the celebrated writer Fanny Burney. She offered her collection to the Gallery after attending an inspirational tour. The display includes etchings by Samuel Palmer, Camille Pissarro and Käthe Kollwitz, woodcuts by the Japanese master Hiroshige and drawings by Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and Christopher Wood.

The Elizabeth Burney Bequest includes several important new additions to the Gallery's collection of Modern British art. Prints by Marc Chagall and Samuel Palmer fill significant gaps, while drawings by Matthew Smith, Leon Underwood and Christopher Wood complement the existing collection.

Burney's choice of artworks reveal her innate fascination with the human experience, both good and bad. Some, such as a poignant etching of a woman by German artist Käthe



Käthe Kollwitz, *Gesenkter Frauenkopf*. Study of a Woman with Head Bent, 1905, soft ground etching on paper, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester (The Elizabeth Burney Bequest, 2018)

Kollwitz, reflect an interest in social inequalities. Kollwitz's portraits often reflect the harsh realities of poverty and act as an indictment of the social conditions in Germany during the late 19th and early 20th century. Throughout her life, Burney sought to combat social inequalities, first through her role as a journalist for *The Economist* and *New Society* magazine and later through her position at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge, and as author of several books on crime and society.

For all press enquiries please contact:

Anna Zeuner, Head of Communications - 01243 770823 / a.zeuner@pallant.org.uk

Sarah Jackson, Communications Officer - 01243 770831 / s.jackson@pallant.org.uk

Alongside this passionate belief in social justice, Burney also appreciated the solace granted by peaceful interiors, such as mezzotints by the Dannish artist Peter Ilstead (brother-in-law of Vilhelm Hammershøi) and depictions of nature such as *River Seine at Rouen* by Camille Pissarro and *The Rising Moon* by Samuel Palmer. In the words of her son, Will Parker, 'Art for her could be a consolatory echo of the more visceral and painful aspects of the human condition, but it could also be an opportunity for humour. Her appreciation of art was of an intimate character, sensual and emotional - in contrast to the analytical and sometimes polemic nature of her work in the public domain.'

Other works reflect the interests of her husband, financial journalist Alan Parker who was a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism. These included three *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints by the Japanese master Hiroshige from his celebrated *Fifty-Three Stations of Tōkaidō Road* (1833–1834) series.

Simon Martin, Director has commented: 'Elizabeth Burney's generous bequest of over twenty works on paper is a significant addition to Pallant House Gallery's 'collection of collections' not least because she was a female collector whose tastes and interests were reflected in the artworks with which she chose to surround herself. It is a collection that has much to tell us about humanity.'

Burney decided to bequeath her collection to Pallant House Gallery following an inspiring visit to the Gallery. She attended a tour given by one of the Gallery's exceptional volunteer guides. Many of the artworks held by the Gallery have been donated as part of the private collection of an individual. Each of these collections have their

own character, revealing different stories and insights into Modern British art – and Britain as a whole.

--Ends--

Notes to editors:

Listings Information:

Exhibition Dates

27 February – 23 June 2019

Pallant House Gallery

8-9 North Pallant

Chichester

West Sussex, UK

PO19 1TJ

Opening Times

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm (excl. Thursday:
10am – 8pm)

Sundays/Bank Holidays: 11am – 5pm

Mondays: Closed

Website: www.pallant.org.uk

About Pallant House Gallery:

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester is a leading UK museum that stimulates new ways of thinking about British art from 1900 to now. As well as an original and critically-acclaimed exhibition programme and a public programme with inclusion at its heart, the gallery houses one of the best collections of Modern British art in the country - all within a distinctive setting of an 18th century townhouse and a 21st century gallery.

For all press enquiries please contact:

Anna Zeuner, Head of Communications - 01243 770823 / a.zeuner@pallant.org.uk

Sarah Jackson, Communications Officer - 01243 770831 / s.jackson@pallant.org.uk