



MERSEYSIDE ARTISTS

FROM THE

SANDON
STUDIOS
SOCIETY

THE ARTS COUNCIL

1952

FOREWORD

MUCH has been heard recently of the Arts Council policy, a duty clearly imposed upon it by its charter, to spread the arts as widely as possible. This exhibition represents, in a sense, the operation in reverse, in that it brings to London the work of the Sandon Studios Society, one of the oldest and leading local societies of artists in the country.

It is hoped that this exhibition will be one of a series in which local societies with a high standard of accomplishment will be given the opportunity to present their works to the metropolitan public. In this case the Arts Council has a double interest in view of the fact that since 1907 the home of the Sandon Studios Society has been that splendid building, Bluecoat Chambers, in the reconstruction of which the Council have taken a practical interest.

The thirteen painters and their works included in this exhibition were chosen by the Sandon Society themselves, and the necessary local arrangements were made by the Council's Regional Office in Manchester.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Frank Lambert, till very recently the Director of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, who has written the introduction to the catalogue, a task he was well qualified to perform by virtue of his long and close association with the society.

P.J.

INTRODUCTION

A CENTURY ago and more, every large provincial centre nourished its own nest of artists, who lived and worked in the city of their birth and found most of their patrons in its neighbourhood. Liverpool was no exception, and painters like William Daniels, William Huggins, W. L. Windus and Samuel Walters, working round the middle of the last century, would have done credit to any representative collection of the period in England.

During the past two generations the conditions under which the artist works in the provinces have changed sadly to his disadvantage. The magnet of London has drawn both painter and patron to itself with ever-increasing force. It is now almost impossible to live wholly by the independent practice of pictorial art outside the capital ; unless he has means, the artist must teach, or design for commerce, or find some other permanent basis for his livelihood. Nevertheless this exhibition will show that a lively and creative spirit still animates those who have been strong enough to resist the centripetal pull of the metropolis.

At the beginning of the present century a group of Liverpool students, working under the inspiration of Augustus John, who taught at the University School of Architecture and Applied Arts in 1901 and 1902, founded a somewhat informal association in a house in Sandon Terrace, near the University. In 1907 they

removed to the Bluecoat Hospital (now Bluecoat Chambers), a fine early 18th century school in the heart of the city, which became available by the removal of the children to suburban quarters. There the painters and sculptors were joined by architects, musicians and writers, as well as by laymen interested in the arts. So the Sandon Studios Society came to birth.

The artist-members of the Society stood for the forward movements of their day ; Sickert, Steer, John, Epstein added distinction to their exhibitions, which were always provocative. Perhaps their most notable achievement was to bring to the provinces for the first time the work of Cezanne, Gauguin and Van Gogh, in an exhibition in Liverpool immediately after the epoch-making show of 1910 in the Grafton Galleries.

Between the wars the Society became an accepted part of the cultural life of Liverpool. In May, 1941, Bluecoat Chambers suffered severely in an air raid, and two-thirds of the structure was gutted. Now, thanks largely to the generous help of the Arts Council, the building has been restored to its original outward appearance and the interior remodelled to include a series of well equipped and lighted studios for the use of local painters, sculptors, engravers and designers. As a centre for the arts, satisfying the interests both of professional and layman, Bluecoat Chambers is now unique in England.

The present exhibition has been selected by the Painters and Sculptors Group Committee of the Sandon Studios Society, who are most grateful to the Arts Council for the opportunity of showing their work to a wider than local public.

FRANK LAMBERT

CATALOGUE

A list of prices is given on page 3 of the cover

Arthur Ballard

Born 1915 in Liverpool. Lecturer at Liverpool College of Art.

- 1 CHILDREN PLAYING Oil 24 x 30 ins.
- 2 MAY QUEEN Oil 28 x 36 ins.
- 3 VILLAGE IN NORTH WALES Oil 36 x 24 ins.

Martin Bell, A.R.C.A.

Born 1907 at Meols, Cheshire. Head of the Department of Drawing and Painting at Liverpool College of Art.

- 4 RUE ST. JACQUES Oil 29 x 20 ins.
- 5 THE CHANDLERS SHOP Oil 20 x 24 ins.
- 6 STREET IN ARLES Oil 18 x 24 ins.
- 7 BLUE HOUSE, ARLES Oil 16 x 20 ins.
- 8 MUSHROOMS AND STILTON Oil 16 x 20 ins.

Lent by G. R. Kennerley, Esq.

Austin Davies, A.T.D.

Born 1926 in Liverpool. In addition to painting has specialised in interior decoration. Assistant Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art.

- 9 THE DREAM Oil 30 x 25 ins.
- 10 THE DREAMER Oil 30 x 25 ins.
- 11 MAN WITH ROPE Oil 40 x 30 ins.

Edward Hales Griffith A.R.C.A.

Born 1909 in Liverpool. Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art.

- 12 MARY Oil 24 x 20 ins.
- 13 PIER HEAD Wax tempera 18 x 24 ins.

Edgar Grosvenor

*Born 1904 in Normanton, Yorkshire.
Now Senior Art Master, Liverpool Collegiate School.*

- 14 ROMILLY SLEEPING Pen and wash 16 x 13 ins.
Lent by W. Lyon Blease, Esq.
- 15 GIRL WITH TANGLED HAIR Pen and wash 16 x 12 ins.
Lent by W. Lyon Blease, Esq.
- 16 TIRED BOY Pen and wash 16 x 12 ins.
Lent by W. Lyon Blease, Esq.
- 17 BOYS BRIGADE Pen and wash 16 x 14 ins.
- 18 CITY BOY Pen and wash 15 x 12 ins.

George W. Jardine, A.R.C.A.

Born 1920 in Wallasey, Cheshire.

Assistant Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art.

- 19 GREVY'S ZEBRA Oil 18 x 24 ins.
20 ALICE IN WONDERLAND Oil 18 x 24 ins.

John G. Keates, A.T.D.

Born 1915 in Birkenhead. Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art.

- 21 YOUNG FISHERMEN Oil 24 x 22 ins.

George Randall Kennerley

Born 1909 in London. Has lived in Liverpool district for many years.

- 22 LIVERPOOL LANDSCAPE Oil 16 x 20 ins.
23 INTERIOR Oil 16 x 20 ins.

Grainger Smith

*Born 1892 in Hull. Part-time teacher at the Liverpool College of Art
Works in oils, tempera, water colour, and as an engraver.*

- 24 RUE NORVINS, PARIS Tempera 18 x 22 ins.

W. L. Stevenson, O.B.E.

*Born 1911 in Liverpool. In addition to painting, has specialised as
an industrial designer and in sculpture and silver-smithing.*

*Chief Designer to Liverpool Festival of Britain Committee 1951.
Now Principal of Liverpool College of Art.*

- 25 AIRMAN IN A WOOD Gouache 24 x 24 ins.
Lent by the Sandon Studios Society.
26 PIER FIRE, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA Watercolour 24 x 30 ins.

Margaret Waller

*Born in Liverpool. Trained at the Liverpool College of Art and the
Royal Academy Schools, London.*

- 27 WINTER, SARK Oil 16 x 20 ins.

Geoffrey Heath Wedgwood, R.E., A.R.C.A.

*Born 1900. Scholar in Engraving at the British School at Rome, 1925.
Senior Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art.*

- 28 PIER HEAD STATION, LIVERPOOL Watercolour 11 x 15 ins.
29 BORGHESE GARDENS, ROME Line engraving $8\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ ins.
30 ST. PETERS, GENOA Line Engraving $10 \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ ins.
31 THE OLD LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE Pen and wash $10\frac{3}{4} \times 11$ ins.
32 THE PRISON Tinted drawing $12 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ ins.

J. Coburn Witherop, A.R.C.A.

Born 1906 in Liverpool. Trained as an engraver and later became interested in tempera painting. In addition to painting, is at present working on the restoration of the Roscoe collection of early Italian paintings at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

- 33 ANGEL AND BROKEN BOAT Tempera 24 x 32 ins.
Lent by Kenneth G. Robinson, Esq.
- 34 POLPERRO, CORNWALL Tempera 30 x 24 ins.
- 35 THE HARBOUR, ST. IVES Tempera 27 x 12 ins.
- 36 POLPERRO, WINTER Tempera 21½ x 26½ ins.
- 37 RIVER BUOYS Tempera 17½ x 16 ins.

LIST OF PRICES

1	£26. 5. 0	20	NOT FOR SALE
2	£36.15. 0	21	£31.10. 0
3	£26. 5. 0	22	£31.10. 0 } Not for Sale
4	£52.10. 0	23	£31.10. 0 } Sold
5	£31.10. 0	24	£26. 5. 0 } Sold
6	£31.10. 0	25	NOT FOR SALE
7	£21. 0. 0	26	£35. 0. 0
8	NOT FOR SALE	27	£26. 5. 0
9	£31.10. 0	28	£20. 0. 0
10	£21. 0. 0	29	£7. 7. 0 } Not for Sale
11	£42. 0. 0	30	£6.10. 0 } Sold
12	£42. 0. 0	31	£20. 0. 0
13	£42. 0. 0	32	£20. 0. 0
14	NOT FOR SALE	33	NOT FOR SALE
15	NOT FOR SALE	34	£52.10. 0 } Sold
16	NOT FOR SALE	35	£36.15. 0
17	£10.10. 0	36	£47. 5. 0
18	£10.10. 0	37	£31.10. 0
19	NOT FOR SALE		