

PRESS RELEASE
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AUERBACH, BOMBERG, CHAGALL, GERTLER, GROSZ, EPSTEIN, KOSSOFF, SOUTINE

MASTERPIECES FROM THE BEN URI COLLECTION GO ON SHOW AT SOMERSET HOUSE

The Ben Uri Gallery and Museum celebrates its centenary this year with a major exhibition in Somerset House: **Out Of Chaos; Ben Uri: 100 Years in London** running from **2 July – 13 December 2015**.

In this exhibition, a group of rarely seen masterworks by mainly Jewish émigré artists will go on show from the Ben Uri collection, including works by the first Jewish Royal Academician, Solomon Hart, Mark Gertler, David Bomberg, First World War poet Isaac Rosenberg, Jacob Epstein, Max Liebermann, Josef Herman, Frank Auerbach, Leon Kossoff and R B Kitaj.

A group of important recent acquisitions will also be shown including *La Soubrette* (1933), a rare portrait – probably the finest in the UK – by Chaim Soutine, acquired in 2012; *The Interrogation* (1938) by George Grosz, acquired in 2010; Chagall's rare and rediscovered response to the Holocaust, *Apocalypse en Lilas, Capriccio* (1945), acquired in 2010, and *Mornington Crescent, Summer Morning II* (2004) by Frank Auerbach, acquired in 2006.

The exhibition also reflects the prominence of women artists in the Ben Uri Collection since its foundation, including Clare Winsten (1894–1989), Lily Delissa Joseph (1863–1940) Amy Drucker (1873–1951), Chana Kowalska (1907–1941), Irma Stern (1894–1966), Eva Frankfurter (1930–1959), Clara Klinghoffer (1900–1970), Dorothy Bohm (1924–) and Sophie Robertson (1988–).

Tate will make a rare loan of Mark Gertler's most celebrated work, *Merry-Go-Round* (1916), his visceral reaction to the First World War. Presented to the collection of the Ben Uri Art Society, by Gertler's dealers, the Leicester Galleries, in 1945, seven years after the artist's death, the painting was sold to the Tate in 1984, where it has remained ever since.

The exhibition will launch an innovative interactive digital archive, *Our Story, Your Story*, collecting stories from visitors of their experiences within London's constantly evolving émigré communities and the contribution that they have made to the City in successive generations. Available on iPads within the exhibition, as well as online, *Our Story, Your Story* will also enable visitors to explore and comment on more of the Ben Uri Collection together with recently un-covered archival material, each work accompanied by its own narrative. Launching on 1 July *Our Story, Your Story* will be on **www.benuri100.org.uk**.

Ben Uri Gallery and Museum began life as an Art Society founded by émigré Jews in Whitechapel's ghetto in July 1915, and is the oldest Jewish cultural organisation in the UK. It is the only art museum in Europe whose raison d'être is to address universal issues of identity and migration through the visual arts. Its collection of more than 1,300 works by 392 artists from 35 countries continues to grow and principally reflects the work, lives and contribution of British and European artists of Jewish descent, interpreted within the context of 20th and 21st century art history, politics and society.

Out of Chaos is co-curated by Rachel Dickson, Head of Curatorial Services, and Sarah MacDougall, Eva Frankfurter Research and Curatorial Fellow for the Study of Émigré Artists / Head of Collections at the Ben Uri Gallery. Two extensive catalogues will be published to coincide with the exhibition including texts by Shulamith Behr, Richard Cork, Rachel Dickson, David Herman, James Hyman, Tony Kushner, Sarah MacDougall, David Mazower, Kathrin Pieren and Brian Sewell. A new film is currently in production, narrated by writer and broadcaster, Suzy Klein.

Out of Chaos

Ben Uri: 100 Years in London

Presented in association with the Cultural Institute at King's College London

2 July – 13 December 2015

Inigo Rooms, Somerset House East Wing

King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS

Press enquiries:

Jane Quinn / Nicole Kanne, Bolton & Quinn

jq@boltonquinn.com / Nicole@boltonquinn.com

+44 (0)20 7221 5000

High-resolution images are available for download via: <http://www.boltonquinn.com/web/press/ben-uri-gallery/>



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Ben Uri Gallery & Museum | 020 7604 3991 | www.benuri.org

Ben Uri, 108A Boundary Road, London NW8 0RH

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Ben Uri Gallery and Museum is the only specialist art museum in Europe addressing universal and ever-more central issues of identity and migration through the visual arts. Emerging from and representing the Jewish community, its collection principally reflects the work, lives and contribution of British and European artists of Jewish descent, interpreted within the wider context of twentieth and twenty-first century art history, politics and society. From its inception as an art society in Whitechapel in 1915, to its current status as an accredited museum with an international reach, the collection has grown to more than 1300 works across 30 different mediums. Made up of both historical and contemporary works, the Ben Uri collection spans 120 years and includes 380 artists from 35 countries, of which 67% are émigrés and 27% women.

From its temporary exhibition space in St. John's Wood, Ben Uri presents an exciting and varied exhibition programme, exploring and incorporating works from its collection. The gallery hosts an extensive education programme for teachers, schools and families, including free visits, workshops, art classes and projects with local schools, as well as an art and wellbeing programme. Ben Uri currently has three community partners: SHAK (South Hampstead and Kilburn Community Association); Oxford House (Bethnal Green); and Paddington Arts (Westbourne Park).

About the Cultural Institute

The Cultural Institute at King's College London connects the university with practitioners, producers, policy makers and participants across arts and culture, creating space where conventions are challenged and original perspectives emerge. Through its programmes and activities, the Cultural Institute aims to put academic research to work in the cultural sector, enhance the student experience, inspire new approaches to teaching, research and learning and increase public engagement with the work of King's. The Cultural Institute is a flagship initiative for Culture at King's. kcl.ac.uk/culturalinstitute @CultInstKings