Ben Uri is delighted to announce the publication of its eagerly awaited monograph on the life and work of David Bomberg.

Written and edited by Ben Uri senior curators Sarah MacDougall and Rachel Dickson, this is the first extensive reassessment of Bomberg’s life and career since Richard Cork’s major publication some 30 years ago.

Born in Birmingham to Polish-Jewish immigrant parents in 1890, Bomberg spent his formative years in London’s East End among his fellow ‘Whitechapel Boys’. These artists, including Gertler, Rosenberg and Wolmark, have been a constant subject of Ben Uri over the past 15 years within our focus on immigrant and refugee artists to this country. This specialism reflects the origins and the museum’s heritage, being founded by an immigrant Russian Jewish artist and a collection constituting 2/3rds of its number by émigré artists.

The book reveals much new research and findings across different periods and aspects of Bomberg’s personal and professional life which shaped his vitality and individualism of thought, vision and practice across five decades.

The book reflects on five particular periods of his life and work:
1890-1914 ‘A Disturbing Influence’
1915-1922 ‘A Force in Modern Art’: War and Graphics
1923-1928 ‘From Zionism to Zion’: The Middle East and London
1928-1945 ‘Independence of Vision’
1945-1957 ‘Our English Soutine’

Underlying the different periods lies the uncomfortable reality of immigrant labelling, even though Bomberg was born in Birmingham, prejudice and the huge struggle to climb out of poverty which faced, and still faces, so many of our long standing and recently arrived fellow citizens.
Despite scandalous critical neglect within his own lifetime, today Bomberg is recognised as one of the 20th century’s leading British artists and this new 220 page lavishly illustrated monograph adds significantly to the library of the artist.

The book is published to coincide with the curators’ Bomberg exhibition presented in association with Pallant House Gallery in Chichester opening on the 21 October followed by The Laing Gallery in Newcastle which opens on the 17 February next year and following at Ben Uri. The monograph is available in hard and soft back and has been generously dedicated by Jonathan Symons in honour of his late parents Cyril and Hazel Symons.

The Curators will be present to discuss the artist and will sign copies of the book at the official launch on the evening of the 14th November to which we hope you will join us. An added bonus is the opportunity to enjoy A Farewell to Art: Chagall, Shakespeare and Prospero which will be on display.

For further information on the book please contact admin@benuri.org

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Opening times: Mon–Fri 10am–5.30pm, Sat–Sun 11am–5pm
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