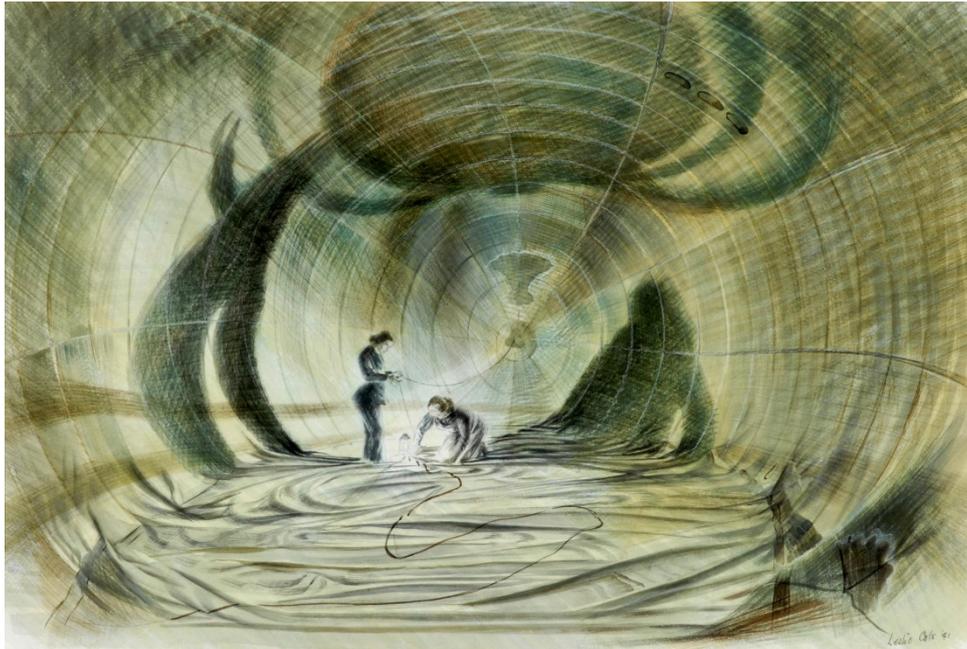


Press Release



Leslie Cole, W.A.A.F.s *Working inside a Balloon*, 1941
Watercolour, The Hepworth Wakefield (Wakefield Permanent Art Collection)
Photograph Norman Taylor

Approaching Thunder: 1940s Prints & Drawings **5 October 2018 – 13 January 2019**

This autumn, the River & Rowing Museum is excited to be opening an outstanding exhibition of art, drawing from The Hepworth Wakefield's outstanding collection of 1940s works on paper by leading British artists.

Natalie Patel, Head of Collections & Exhibitions, River & Rowing Museum: "It is fantastic to bring artworks by leading 20th Century artists to Henley. This exhibition features striking watercolours and drawings by artists including Henry Moore, John Piper, and Vanessa Bell that give us a unique – and quite frankly haunting – insight into what it would have been like to live and experience post-war Britain."

These prints and drawings allow us to revisit a decade of anxiety, austerity and idealism that resonates strongly with our lives today. With materials strictly rationed and the art market in crisis, artists including Edward Bawden and John Minton turned to the inexpensive medium of paper to express their experiences of the times in which they lived.

The artworks in this exhibition explore ordinary lives under extraordinary shared circumstances. The majority depict life on the Home Front, capturing people lost in thought or absorbed in their labours as well as landscapes revealing the devastation of war. A small group of Henry Moore's shelter drawings form a particular highlight.

Sarah Posey, Director: "This is an outstanding selection of works, including images by several of the small group of women War Artists. We're delighted to host this special show from The Hepworth Wakefield at the River & Rowing Museum. Drawn from a very specific period of time – 1939 to 1951 – these works on paper have a certain immediacy and intimacy, reflecting the experiences of ordinary people in extraordinary times. Many of the images are by War Artists, commissioned specifically to create 'not simply a record of the facts, but of what the war felt like.'"

The Learning team at the Museum have worked to make the exhibition accessible to visitors of all ages, and the display includes 'listen to the picture' bringing the pictures to life, a rationing challenge to help visitors understand the reality of rationing in the Second World War and an art detective trail to help young visitors explore the pictures more closely.

The exhibition runs until January 2019, and is supported with two additional events, an exciting opportunity to have an expert tour from the curator of the exhibition – Dr Hilary Floe, Hepworth Wakefield, and a lecture by art historian Sandra Smith.

Approaching Thunder – Curator's Tour

Mon 5 Nov

12 – 12.45pm

Tour ticket, £7

Printmaking and Landscape in the 1940s

Wed 21 Nov

11.30am - 12.30pm

Lecture ticket £6

More information can be found at rrm.co.uk

Ends

For additional press information, interviews or photography please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

The River & Rowing Museum is one of the U.K's leading independent museums. Situated in picturesque Henley on Thames, and housed in an award-winning building on the banks of the river, the museum explores the River Thames, the international sport of rowing and the town of Henley. The galleries include interactive displays as well as internationally-significant collections, including the family-friendly 'Wind in the Willows' gallery and a permanent display of the work of artist John Piper. In addition, the Museum hosts a lively programme of temporary and visiting exhibitions, working with partners such as the National Portrait Gallery, the V&A and the Hayward Gallery in London. Working closely with organisations in our area, the Museum has recently opened a

Community Gallery which showcases a wide variety of local projects. Twice shortlisted for Family Friendly Museum of the Year, the Museum is a registered educational charity, and welcomes over 114,000 visitors per year, including 20,000 children and adults who taking part in our fun and inspiring learning and events programme. The museum has delightful café with a terrace overlooking Mill Meadows, and a shop specialising in children's books and games, fashion and craft.

Website: <http://rrm.co.uk/>
Email: museum@rrm.co.uk
Opening Hours: Daily 10am-5pm