

PRESS RELEASE 2013

Paul Nash: The Clare Neilson Collection

9 April – 30 June 2013

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, West Sussex, is delighted to present a new exhibition showcasing a gift of works and correspondences by the British artist Paul Nash (11 May 1889 – 11 July 1946). One of the most original British artists of the first half of the 20th Century, Paul Nash is celebrated for his lyrical depictions of the British landscape, Surrealist imagery and his work as a War Artist.

The collection, which includes important early wood engravings and etchings, photographs, collage, correspondence and illustrated books, was amassed by the artist's intimate friend **Clare Neilson**. It has been recently gifted to Pallant House Gallery by Neilson's godson **Jeremy Greenwood** and **Alan Swerdlow**, through the **Art Fund**, the national fundraising charity that each year helps hundreds of museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections.

Clare Neilson met Paul Nash in the early 1930s, establishing an intimate friendship that was to last until Paul's death in 1946. The wealthy daughter of a stockbroker, Clare had settled in Kent with her husband Charles in 1930 where she formed a wide circle of artist friends which included **Edward Burra** and **Paul Nash** who lived in neighbouring Rye.

Clare and Paul shared a love of book collecting – and the exhibition contains the first letter she received from him, dated 6 August 1934 (already by then 'My dear Clare'), in which he wrote 'I can never thank you enough for Stukeley', in reference to William Stukeley's book on Avebury (1743), the first of many antiquarian books she found for Nash.

Later, when they moved to Gloucester, Paul Nash was a frequent visitor to their new home, Madams, and the abandoned mine workings and standing stone at Staunton in the Forest of Dean nearby provided subjects for some of the artist's best-known work. The exhibition, which features highlights from the Collection includes '**Tyger, Tyger**', a collage depicting a colour engraving of a tiger set against a photograph of a ruin in the Forest of Dean, bearing the words 'Collage for Clare'.



Paul Nash, Tyger Tyger, Collage (c.1938) © Tate, London 2013

Other highlights featured in the show include **Tree Group** (1923), **Promenade** (1923), **Dyke by the Road** (1922) and **Garden Pond** (1921), wood engravings which demonstrate Nash's importance as one of the leading British landscape artists of the early-twentieth century; as well as examples of Nash's most important illustrated books such as **Places** (1922), **Genesis** (1924), **Shakespeare's A Midsummer Nights Dreame** (1924), **Mister Bosphorus and the Muses** (1923), and **Urne Buriall and the Garden of Cyrus** (1932), many of which are personally inscribed by Nash.

Simon Martin, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at Pallant House Gallery, has said: 'The Clare Neilson collection of Paul Nash prints, photographs, collage and books is a significant addition to Pallant House Gallery's collection of Modern British Art. Not only does it include remarkable wood engravings and collage, but it provides a fascinating and personal view into friendship and artistic patronage in the 1930s and 40s.'

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director said: "The Clare Neilson collection gives us an insight into the breadth of Paul Nash's artistic capabilities. We are thrilled to have worked with Neilson's godson, Jeremy Greenwood, and Alan Swerdlow in placing this collection with Pallant House Gallery.

INFORMATION | IMAGES | INTERVIEWS

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Thurs 10am-8pm

Sun 11am -5pm

closed Mondays

Adult £9*, Child £3.50

Stdnt £5.50, Family £17

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Notes to editors

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About Pallant House Gallery

Located in the heart of historic Chichester on the South coast, Pallant House Gallery is a unique combination of a Grade One Listed Queen-Anne townhouse and an award-winning contemporary extension, housing one of the most significant collections of Modern British art in the country. Widely acclaimed for its innovative temporary exhibitions and exemplary Learning and Community programme which has inclusion at its heart, the Gallery has won numerous awards since re-opening in 2006. For more information visit pallant.org.uk.

About the Art Fund

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art, helping museums and galleries across the UK to acquire great works of art and develop their collections, and encouraging the public to make the most of all there is to see. Over the past five years it has given £24 million to enable over 200 museums to acquire works of art of all types, from ancient sculpture and treasure hoards to Old Master paintings and contemporary commissions, and supported a range of programmes which bring art to wider audiences. Highly experienced in working with collectors and museums to place gifts of art, the Art Fund ensures that the gift is available for the public to enjoy for many years to come. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from 95,000 members. For more information please go to www.artfund.org

Exhibition events:

Talk: Paul Nash in Pictures

Thursday 18 April, 6pm

James Russell, author of 'Paul Nash in Pictures: Landscape and Dream', brings a fresh eye to the artist's legacy, going behind the scenes to explore Nash's life, the places and people he knew, and the times in which he lived.

£8.50 (Friends £7, Students £7.50)

Talk: Andrew Causey on Paul Nash

Thursday 27 June, 6pm

Paul Nash created an individual pathway through English art in the first half of the 20th century, shaping a body of work that recognised the importance of the modern movement and stimulated him to evolve his own English landscapebased Surrealism. Causey, the leading authority on Nash, will discuss his work.

£8.50 (Friends £7, Students £7.50)