

Inspired by Burne-Jones, a unique exhibition of contemporary glass.

The Grange Gallery, Rottingdean, 4 – 16 June 2019.

Supported by The Rottingdean Preservation Society and The Worshipful Company of Glaziers, Rottingdean's *Inspired by Burne-Jones* exhibition celebrates its connection with Edward Burne-Jones who lived in the village from 1880-1898.

The Grange Gallery will be transformed with panels of stained glass suspended in the tall Georgian windows, an array of lightboxes illuminating a further collection of glass paintings and a collection of glowing artefacts.

Based in studios all over the UK (and one in US), the exhibitors include some of the best known names in stained glass in Britain today such as Caroline Swash, Lynette Wrigley, Pippa Martin, Pippa and Jonathan Cooke, members of the British Society of Master Stained Glass painters and The Worshipful Company of Glaziers, all keen to pay homage to Burne-Jones' work and legacy.

The myriad pieces, produced by more than 20 specialist glass practitioners for the exhibition, reveal in-depth explorations of Burne-Jones' work. Drawing inspiration from his paintings, stained glass and tapestry, the artists' sources include: *The Briar Rose* and *Perseus* cycles, *The Beguiling of Merlin*, *The Golden Stairs* and *The Adoration of the Magi* tapestry.

The theme has inspired a fascinating and diverse collection of highly-individual responses: narrative pieces and abstracts, a dynamic spiral of tiny details from stained glass windows, exquisite studies of jewel-like flora, serene angels, portraits and evocations of the Rottingdean Burne-Jones knew. One panel has at its heart an actual piece of Burne-Jones' stained glass.

The exhibition will represent a microcosm of the world of glass, showcasing traditional stained glass methods still used today and contemporary techniques, often blending old and new. (There will be hand-blown multi-coloured glass, gilded and printed fused glass and a combination of copper and very thick Dalle de Verre glass.)

It is a fitting tribute to the genius of Burne-Jones that his work continues to enthrall, inspiring a vibrant and varied flow of creativity here captured in glass.

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BACKGROUND NOTES

The Rottingdean Preservation Society recently launched a completely revitalized Burne-Jones room in The Grange, beside the Gallery. This small permanent exhibition will provide comprehensive background for exhibition visitors. The exhibition panels encompass biographical details, Burne-Jones' partnership with William Morris, the multi-media aspects of his body of work and his life in Rottingdean. The narrative is supplemented by slideshows of photographs of the Burne-Jones family and images of all the paintings which Burne-Jones worked on during his Rottingdean years.

The wealth of imagery in the new room reveals a unique, multi-faceted artist. As well as conveying the distinctive, dreamy, chivalric romanticism of Burne-Jones' paintings and his veneration of beautiful women, humour and affection are displayed in caricatures featuring William Morris and charming illustrated letters to the children in his life. There are also representations of Burne-Jones' designs for Morris & Co. which include stained glass windows, tapestries, furniture and book illustrations - the results of the fruitful artistic collaboration between Morris and Burne-Jones which spanned nearly 40 years.

EDWARD BURNE-JONES IN ROTTINGDEAN AND THE ROTTINGDEAN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Among the glitterati attracted to the seaside village of Rottingdean at the end of the 19th century was Edward Burne-Jones who had a house on the other side of The Green from The Grange where he lived from 1880 to 1898.

St Margaret's' church in Rottingdean, right beside the Grange Gallery, has outstanding examples of Burne-Jones' stained glass:

<http://www.stmargaret.org.uk/history/4-history-the-windows.php>

The Rottingdean Preservation Society is delighted to host the *Inspired by Burne-Jones* glass exhibition. Founded in 1961, with the primary responsibility of maintaining the iconic Rottingdean Windmill, the Preservation Society is a charity with the general remit of promoting community initiatives in the village. In 1983, with the aid of a bequest, the Society bought and helped to restore the Kipling Gardens. In 1992 the Society took over the running of the Rottingdean Museum, threatened with closure, from Brighton Council, and developed part of the space into a Gallery which now attracts more than 8,000 visitors a year.

LIST OF EXHIBITORS

Adam Aaronson

Emma Blount

Alison Chesman

Jonathan Cooke

Catherine Day

Sue Delbridge

Juliet Forrest

Kate Henderson

Elizabeth Hippisley-Cox

Nicola Kantorowicz

Elizabeth Lamont

David Light

David J Lilly

Brett Manley

Pippa Martin

David Randall

Vikki Rose

Q Phia Sherry

Pippa Stacey

Caroline Swash

Frans Wesselman

Lynette Wrigley

Paul Yarde