

Knowsley Culture Development and Events Service
is delighted to present

29 January - 28 April 2018

Approaching Thunder

1940s British Prints and Drawings from The Hepworth Wakefield



Kirkby Gallery, Knowsley

*Henry Moore, Four Grey Sleepers, 1941. Pencil, pen, crayon and wash on paper.
(photograph Jerry Hardman-Jones). Courtesy The Hepworth Wakefield.*

Kirkby Gallery is delighted to present *Approaching Thunder*, as the first gallery on its national tour.

This exhibition draws from The Hepworth Wakefield's outstanding collection of 1940s British works on paper, revisiting a decade of anxiety, austerity and idealism that resonates strongly with our lives today. With materials strictly rationed and the art market in crisis, leading artists such as John Piper, Graham Sutherland and Edward Bawden turned to the inexpensive medium of paper.

Although a substantial number of works in the show were produced under the patronage of Kenneth Clark's War Artists Advisory Committee, these images are in marked contrast to the idealised state propaganda embodied in the art of Nazi Germany. Though government-regulated, the works exhibited here convey individual and subjective experience, exploring ordinary lives under extraordinary shared circumstances. Figures are lost in thought or absorbed in their labours; intricately described landscapes reveal devastation but also the lingering vitality of the natural world. Perhaps reflecting this move to a renewed social engagement, public interest in modern art soared across the country.

A small group of Henry Moore's shelter drawings form a particular highlight, while a selection of illustrated books show modernist artists using low-cost lithography to circulate their work across a broad social spectrum.

Top: Edward Bawden, *European Ward, South African Casualty Clearing Station, Maaten Bagush*, c. 1940-42. Pen, ink and watercolour on paper (photograph Norman Taylor). Courtesy The Hepworth Wakefield.

Bottom: Leslie Cole, *W.A.A.F.s Working inside a Balloon*, 1941. Watercolour. Presented by His Majesty's Government and the War Artists Advisory Committee in 1947 (photograph Norman Taylor). Courtesy The Hepworth Wakefield.

If you are a school wishing to bring a class to the gallery, please book in advance via the contact details as below. *Don't forget, your visit to our exhibition can be used towards an Arts Award accreditation!*



Where to find us



Kirkby Gallery

The Kirkby Centre, Norwich Way, Kirkby, Knowsley, L32 8XY

Opening Times are: Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm
Sat 10am to 1pm

Please note the opening times are subject to change, please check the website before visiting.

Teacher First event: **Thursday 25 January, 3.45-4.30pm**

Private View: **Thursday 25 January, 4.30-6.30pm**

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Tina Ball on **0151 443 5617** or **tina.ball@knowsley.gov.uk**

Please note that this is a RSVP event only. Light refreshments available.

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If you require further information about the exhibition please contact Tina Ball on 0151 443 5617 or email tina.ball@knowsley.gov.uk

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