

2011 –an exciting year for West Yorkshire Art and a challenging year for artists

IF.. you still harbour any doubts about the central role that the West Riding has played in the development of contemporary art, then the new year may put an end to them. This year will see some important exhibitions by artists with a local pedigree and an international reputation. Here at HoMA we are aiming to put on some complementary showcases that will give people the opportunity to acquire works by the artists themselves or artists working with them.

Most of the high points in this year, were picked up by Nick Ahmed in the last Yorkshire Post of 2010 and include:

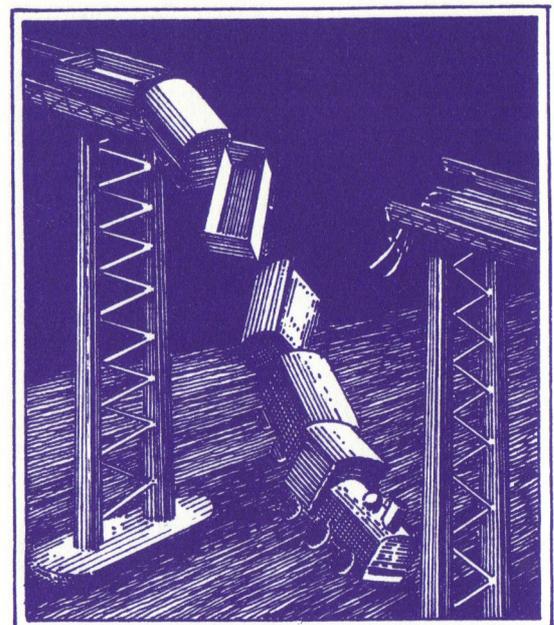
In February: York Art Gallery shows **David Hockney's** extraordinary and huge "*Bigger Trees Near Warter or/ou peinture Sur Le Motif Pour Le Nouvel Age Post-Photographique 2007*". 12m x 4.5m and made up of 50 smaller canvases painted en plein air in the east Yorkshire village of Warter it was first shown in the Royal Academy but this is a chance to see it. You can't see the any more ironically were cut down by the land owner soon after the painting was finished

In March: a tremendous exhibition of **Henry Moore's** sculptures, first shown at Tate Britain last year and currently in Toronto comes to Leeds Art Gallery. The Henry Moore Institute is putting on a complementary exhibition of prints, etchings and drawings starting in February.

However spring will see the much anticipated publication of a major book on the Leeds surrealist Anthony Earnshaw, authored and edited by Les Coleman and with contributions by Patrick Hughes, Chris Vine, John Hyatt and other artists we show at HoMA. We have a good selection of Earnshaw's books and pamphlets, many signed and two with a dedication to his "old friend and comrade" George Melly. The illustration above right is a letter "N" from one of his books - "Seven Secret Alphabets".

In May the attention of the whole international art and architecture world will focus on Wakefield when the **Hepworth Gallery** opens.

In July Leeds' own **Damien Hirst** finally gets a show at Leeds Art Gallery which will include one of his iconic pieces "Away from the Flock".



Many areas would think that to have four world class artists active during a short period of time would be mark them out as exceptional. But of course that just scratches the surface of the West Riding's influence and doesn't include other internationally acclaimed artists with important local connections including Andy Goldsworthy, Marcus Harvey, Norman Ackroyd, Sonia Lawson

One of the shows not picked up by the YP is a show opening on 17th January at the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery - "30 years of the **New Arcadian Journal** and Broadsheets". An artist closely associated with the New Arcadians and with the Scottish landscape artist and poet Ian Hamilton Findlay, is **Ian Gardner**, who taught for many years in Bradford College before moving to Morecambe.



Ian Gardner: *Four Prospects*, four small water colours framed together by the New Arcadian painter, available in the gallery

But for practicing artists who haven't yet established their reputation the massive public sector cuts are going to present real challenges about how to respond to immediate concerns with the impact of those cuts on wider society, and respond with work that has enduring qualities. But they will. Art and artists have always risen to this challenge. In these sorts of difficult times small private galleries, collectors and artists' self organised collaborations play a more important role than the politically restrained national and municipal galleries. So as well as celebrating West Yorkshire as a place that has an internationally important role in the development of modern and contemporary art **H^oMA** will be stepping up to the mark to try to continue to support new and emerging artists.

This new year is a probably good time to reflect on the words of the anarchist knight, Yorkshireman, Leeds University graduate, poet and art theorist whose role in promoting and shaping art in the twentieth century was far more influential and wide ranging than Ruskin's had been on nineteenth century visual arts:

"It does not seem that the contradiction which exists between the aristocratic function of art and the democratic structure of modern society can ever be resolved. But both may wear the cloak of humanism, the one for shelter, the other for display. The sensitive artist knows that a bitter wind is blowing."

(Sir Herbert Read - The Philosophy of Modern Art, 1952)



Modern and contemporary fine art including works by

Jacob Kramer * Philip Naviaskey * Phil May * Anthony Earnshaw * David Hockney *
David Oxtoby * Patrick Hughes * Jeff Nuttall * Ian Taylor * Tom Wood
Chris Vine * John Hyatt * Brian Lewis * Alex Corina * Damien Hirst * Boyd and Evans
Mick Kirkby-Geddes * Tony Noble * Douglas Binder * Stuart Dawson * William Gaunt
Jacob Schuhle-Lewis * Des Pattison * Paul Robert McGregor * Erin Ward * Wendy McArthur

Recent acquisitions include works by: Joe Dolan & Barry De More

21st century design:

* *Glass* by Jo-ann Eisenberg, * *Silk scarves* by Humaira Nadeem;
* *Silver jewellery* by Anuska Wittman and by Trish Bondi * *Paper Cuts* by Claire Lindley

Winter Opening 2011

Thursday 10.30am to 5 pm
Friday 10.30 to 5 pm
Saturday 10am to 5pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm

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