



COLLECTION & EXHIBITIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A Brush with Evil: Peter Howson's Holocaust Crowd Scene II
Ben Uri Gallery (14 June – 14 July 2023)



Peter Howson, *Holocaust Crowd Scene II* (2011), oil on canvas, 122 x 184 cm, Ben Uri Collection © Peter Howson

Ben Uri Gallery and Museum presents a new exhibition, *A Brush with Evil*, showcasing contemporary Scottish artist Peter Howson's devastating painting, *Holocaust Crowd Scene II* (2011). This monumental canvas, a visceral and haunting representation of the horror and brutality of the Nazi concentration camps, depicting a crowd of Jewish prisoners in various attitudes of grief, suffering and lamentation, also references classical and Christian imagery including representations of the dead Christ (or *pietà*), powerfully underlining the prisoners' martyrdom.

Multi award-winning painter, printmaker, and muralist Peter Howson was born in London in 1958 to Scottish parents and moved with his family to Prestwick, near Glasgow, at the age of four. He studied at Glasgow School of Art and has established a significant reputation as a central figure in the school of Scottish figurative painting. In 1992 he was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to record the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He was appointed official British war artist for Bosnia in 1993 and produced a number of highly emotive, sometimes controversial paintings, which inform his later work.

Holocaust Crowd Scene II serves as a powerful reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and the need for continued awareness about the dangers of hatred and prejudice, highlighting the important role that art plays in bearing witness to history and engaging with the human experience.

Ben Uri Gallery 108A Boundary Road, St John's Wood, London NW8 ORH

For opening times: www.benuri.org For further info: admin@benuri.org