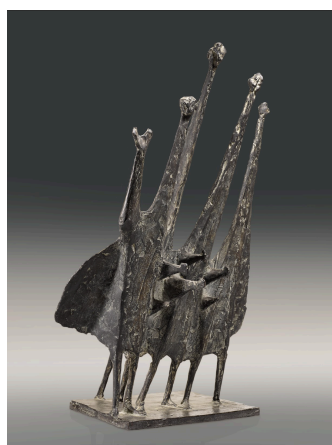
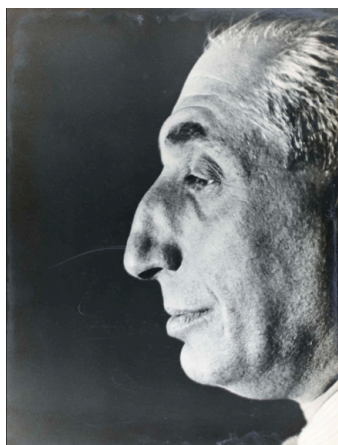


Cosmopolis: The Impact of Refugee Art Dealers in London **Ben Uri Gallery, London NW8 0RH, 26 June – 6 September 2024**



Gerty Simon, *Alfred Flechtheim, London*, c. 1935 © and photo: The Bernard Simon Estate, Wiener Holocaust Library Collections; Kenneth Armitage, *People in the Wind*, 1950 © The Kenneth Armitage. Photo: Jonathan Clark Fine Art; Frank Auerbach, *Head of J.Y.M.*, 1970 © The Artist, courtesy Frankie Rossi Art Projects, London. Photo credit: courtesy of Piano Nobile, London.

Ben Uri is delighted to announce the upcoming exhibition *Cosmopolis: The Impact of Refugee Art Dealers in London*.

Following the rise of Nazism and chaos of global warfare in the 1930s–40s, over 50 art dealers were driven out of Continental Europe to seek refuge in Britain. Settling in London, they fostered new ties within the existing British art world and joined an ever-growing artistic émigré network. Founding galleries that welcomed international art trends, their presence had a transformative effect on the often-considered insular British art scene of the 1930s. Over three decades they played a major role in transforming London into a world art capital to rival New York and Paris. This was celebrated in 1964 in an exhibition at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester called *Cosmopolis: The School of London*, that claimed London as the heir to interwar Paris. This recognition was based on an art world made incrementally diverse and vibrant by immigration, and which inspired the present exhibition's title.

Founded on new doctoral research, *Cosmopolis* offers an episodic, rather than comprehensive, history of 21 individuals who had measurable influence on the modern and contemporary art market from the 1930s to the 1960s. The exhibition highlights the dealers' stories and in parallel the artists they promoted, and the new networks and spaces they created for artistic exchange and dissemination.

Four key areas of activity are explored: the introduction of German modernism to a largely indifferent and Francophile British public (Carl Braunschweig and Alfred Flechtheim); the opening of wartime galleries that sustained Britain's émigré artists through the Blitz (Jack Bilbo, Lea Bondi Jaray, Paul Wengraf and Roland, Browse and Delbanco); the postwar rebuilding of London's devastated art market on an international footing (Hanover Gallery,

Gimpel Fils, and Marlborough Fine Art); and the promotion of Black and South Asian artists arriving from the Commonwealth in the 1940s and 1950s (William Ohly, Annely Juda and Mateusz Grabowski).

Many of these individuals were behind the careers of several of Britain's most important and revered modern artists. Loan artists from both public and private collections include Kenneth Armitage, Frank Auerbach, Sandra Blow, Lynn Chadwick, Avinash Chandra, Alan Davie and Aubrey Williams. Ben Uri collection artists include Lucian Freud, Josef Herman, Peter Laszlo Peri, Kurt Schwitters, and Katerina Wilczynski.

A fully illustrated online publication and series of events will accompany the exhibition.

Open: 26 June to 6 September 2024, Wednesdays to Fridays: 10 am – 5.30pm

Notes for Editors

This exhibition reflects Ben Uri's core research focus on the Refugee and Immigrant contribution to British visual culture since 1900 – see buru.org.uk & diaspora-artists.net

Principal dealers featured: Carl Braunschweig (1886–1963); Alfred Flechtheim (1878–1937); Grete Ring (1887–1952); Paul Wengraf (1894–1978) (Arcade Gallery); Jack Bilbo (1907–1967) (Modern Art Gallery); William Ohly (1883–1955) (Berkeley Galleries); Lea Bondi Jaray (1880–1969) (St George's Gallery); Francis Matthiesen (1898–1963) (Matthiesen Ltd); Henry Roland (1907–93) and Gustav Delbanco (1903–97) (Roland Browse and Delbanco); Charles (1913–73) and Peter Gimpel (1915–2005) (Gimpel Fils); Erica Brausen (1908–92) (Hanover Gallery); Harry Fischer (1903–77) and Frank Lloyd (1911–98) (Marlborough Fine Art); Andras Kalman (1918–2007) (Crane Kalman Gallery); Halima Nalecz (1914–2008) (Drian Galleries); Mateusz Grabowski (1904–76) (Grabowski Gallery); Jan Wielizcko (1921–98) (Centaur Gallery).

External artists: Kofi Antubam (1922–64), Frank Auerbach (b. 1931), Sadanand K. Bakre (1920–2007), Martin Bloch (1883–1954), Sandra Blow (1925–2006), Reg Butler (1913–1981), Lynn Chadwick (1914–2003), Avinash Chandra (1931–91), Hugo Dachinger (1908–95), Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1898–1944), Alan Davie (1920–2014), Georg Ehrlich (1897–1966), Donald Hamilton Fraser (1929–2009), John Heartfield (1891–1968), Adrian Heath (1920–92), Gerty Simon (1887–1970), Victor Weisz (1913–66), Aubrey Williams (1926–90).

Ben Uri artists: Alva (1901–73), Janina Baranowska (1925–2022), Zeev Ben-Zvi (1904–52), Jack Bilbo (1907–1967), Lucian Freud (1922–2011), George Grosz (1893–1959), Franz Hecht (1877–c. 1946) Josef Herman (1911–2000), Max Liebermann (1847–1935), Lippy Lipshitz (1903–1980), Anna Mayerson (1906–84), Abraham Mintchine (1898–1931), Mosheh Oved (1885–1958), Peter Lazlo Peri (1899–1967), Kurt Schwitters (1887–1948), Willi Soukop (1907–95), Chaim Soutine (1893–1943), Katerina Wilczynski (1894–1978), Marek Zulawski (1908–85).

The Ben Uri Collection was formed in 1915 in London's East End to support Jewish artists working outside the cultural mainstream. In 2002 the remit widened to include all first- and

second-generation immigrant artists, irrespective of national, ethnic, and religious/non-religious origins, who have helped to enrich Britain's visual culture. The Collection today reflects three waves of migration: first- and second-generation Eastern European Jewish migration prior to 1914; the so-called 'Hitler émigrés', both Jewish and non-Jewish (1933–45), and wider multicultural immigration after the Second World War.

For further information on Ben Uri: see www.benuri.org

For further information on this exhibition please contact:

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