



Art Identity Migration

THIS WEEK AT BEN URI

A feast of art, culture and fascinating life stories ...
FREE and at any time to suit you!
benuri.org

HERE

We promised you further innovations and this week we launch the first - a full week focus on a single immigrant artist whose creativity and output has had an ongoing and measurable impact on British visual culture.

We present 7 days of features on the Berlin born artist Eva Frankfurter.

Her life and artistic story is told below across biography, artworks, essay, podcast and video but is best summarised by her own words;

"West Indian, Irish, Cypriot and Pakistani immigrants, English whom the Welfare State had passed by, these were the people amongst whom I lived and made some of my best friends. My colleagues and teachers were painters concerned with form and colour, while to me these were only means to an end, the understanding of and commenting on people."

THERE

During her lifetime Frankfurter avoided the art establishment but exhibited regularly in local group shows at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the Bethnal Green Museum.

Her work has been exhibited posthumously in museums and prestigious galleries in London, Leicester, Cambridge, Bedford and Berlin and is in Ben Uri, Clare College, Cambridge, and many private collections both in the UK and abroad.

In 2022 her evocative painting of *West Indian Waitresses* (see Sunday) was a feature image in the Barbican's memorable exhibition in 2022 titled *Post-War Modern: New Art in Britain 1945-1965*. The image was seen across London in tube stations and beyond enhancing public awareness of the exhibition and Eva Frankfurter - see [Barbican](#).

Her painting, *Old Woman of the East End*, is currently on display at Towner Eastbourne as part of the Dimbleby show: [Ben Uri Collection](#).

EVERYWHERE

Eva's sister, Beate Planskoy, has been a dedicated champion of her work.

In 2001, pioneering gallerist Agi Katz of the Boundary gallery worked with Beate to curate and present a survey exhibition of Eva's work. Distinguished London art historian, Monica Bohm-Duchen, wrote the extensive catalogue including a comprehensive essay on her career.

In 2011, Ben Uri appointed art historian Sarah MacDougall to the post of *The Eva Frankfurter Research and Curatorial Fellow for the study of Emigre Artists to Britain* in honour of Eva. This was the predecessor of the 2018 *Ben Uri Research Unit for the study of the Jewish, Refugee and Immigrant contribution to British visual culture since 1900*, which Sarah also led with distinction.

In 2017 Ben Uri presented an exhibition of her work titled *Refugees: The Lives of Others*, and have loaned and shown her work in numerous contextual exhibitions.

Sarah, working closely with Beate, curated a Ben Uri dedicated website recording and illustrating Eva's career - see [Eva Frankfurter](#).

Ben Uri has championed her work and together, everyone's efforts have been richly rewarded as Eva Frankfurter has today a deserved and secure place in the cannon of British postwar art history. A rare achievement but in this case made easier by the immense quality, sensitivity and empathy of her work.

Please share This Week with your friends and family

Have a great Ben Uri week!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We need your support: If you believe in our mission and the depth of research and resources we offer then please buy us a coffee, or many coffees, or even lunch or dinner!



MONDAY 13 JANUARY

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

EVA FRANKFURTER
(1930-1959)

Eva Frankfurter was born into a cultured and assimilated Jewish family in Berlin, Germany on 10 February 1930. Following the rise of National Socialism in Germany, she escaped to London with her siblings (her father and step-mother followed afterwards) in 1939. Between 1946 and 1951 she studied at St Martin's School of Art, where her fellow students included Leon Kossoff and Frank Auerbach, who recalled Frankfurter's 'contempt for professional tricks or gloss' and her work as 'full of feeling for people'.

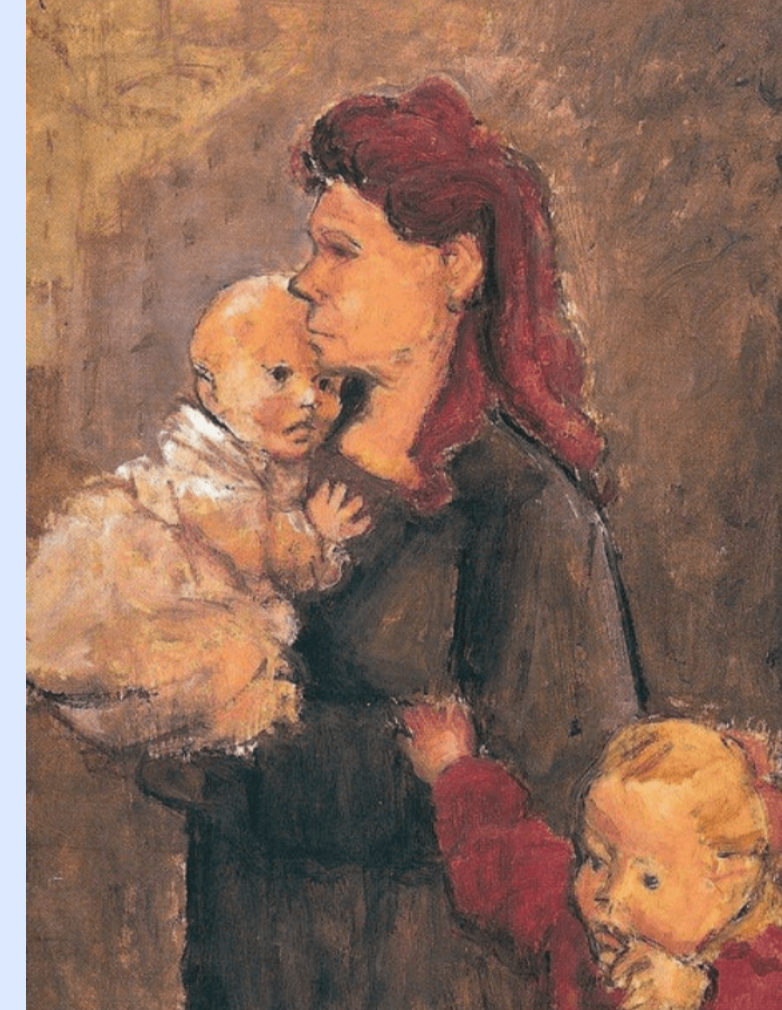
Between 1952 and 1958 she interspersed work with travel and visited Holland, Italy, Germany, Greece and Israel and painted the people she saw. Shortly after returning to London in October 1958, suffering from depression, she tragically took her own life in January 1959.

65 years on her artistic legacy shines brightly.



Learn more about Eva Frankfurter and 400 other artists at the Ben Uri Collection

TUESDAY 14 JANUARY



EXHIBITION OF THE WEEK

SELECTED WORKS
BY EVA FRANKFURTER
(1930-1959)

Discover this and more than 80 other exhibitions on benuri.org

WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

THE ACCUSED
BY EVA FRANKFURTER



View this work and 900 hundred others in the Ben Uri Collection

THURSDAY 16 JANUARY



PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

EVA FRANKFURTER

Eva Frankfurter was born into a Jewish family in Berlin, Germany in 1930; following the rise of National Socialism, the Frankfurter family fled to London in 1939; schooled at South Hampstead High School and Stotley Rough boarding school in Surrey. After the war she studied at St Martin's School of Art, where her fellow students included Frank Auerbach. Quickly disillusioned with the London arts scene, she worked evenings at Lyons Corner House from 1951 to 1956 painting portraits during the day of the ethnically diverse, largely immigrant population of London, among whom she lived and worked and whose lives she championed. Her untimely passing in 1959 cut short an already accomplished career and her artistic legacy is today nationally and internationally recognised and secure.

Learn more about Eva Frankfurter and over 3000 others from diverse backgrounds and countries, who have migrated to Britain at the Ben Uri Research Unit.

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

ESSAY OF THE WEEK

REFIGURING THE 50S: JOAN EARDLEY, SHEILA FELL, EVA FRANKFURTER, JOSEF HERMAN AND L S LOWRY
BY SARAH MACDOUGALL

REFIGURING THE 50S: JOAN EARDLEY, SHEILA FELL, EVA FRANKFURTER, JOSEF HERMAN AND L S LOWRY

SARAH MACDOUGALL



Read this and 400 other essays on refugee and immigrant artists to Britain here

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

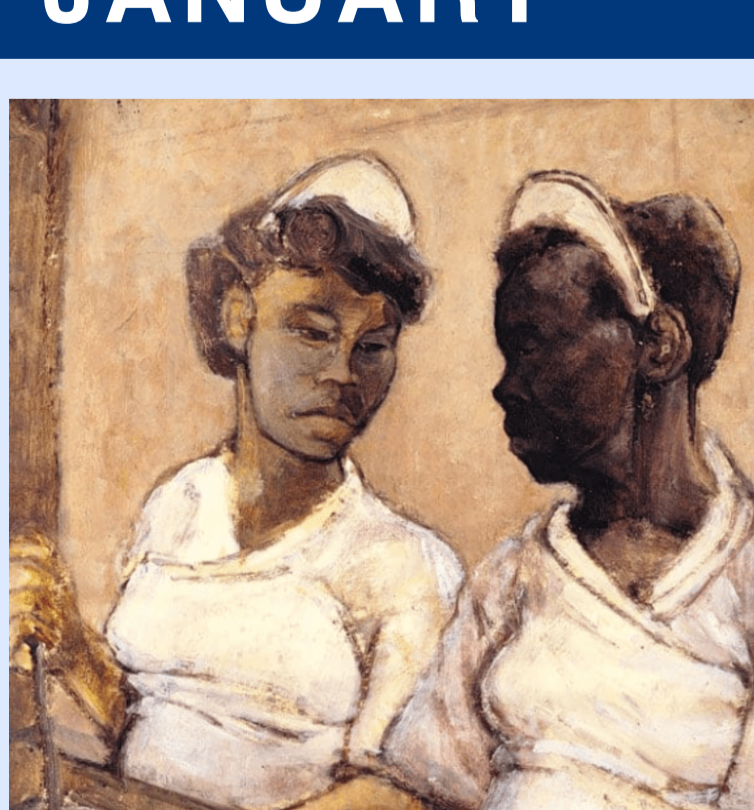
EVA FRANKFURTER

Listen to this podcast and over 100 more from Ben Uri Radio

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

EVA FRANKFURTER: WEST INDIAN WAITRESSES
c.1955



Watch this video and 100 more videos on BU TV

Ben Uri
Research Unit

- 80+ Online and 3D Exhibitions
- 100+ Podcasts & Interviews
- 100+ School and Family programmes
- 100+ Arts and Mental Health interventions
- 100+ Films and artist insights
- 400+ Collection artist biographies
- 400+ Research papers, essays, catalogues and PhD theses
- 600+ Archive exhibitions records
- 900+ Collection artworks on burucollection.org.uk
- 3300+ Research Unit profiles on buru.org.uk / diaspora-artists.net
- 10,000 Pages of archives from 1915

Benuri.org & Buru.org.uk open 24/7 to suit you / Gallery exhibitions open every Wednesday to Friday at Boundary Road, London NW8