



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

This week we focus on two important artists, Franciszka Themerson and Josef Herman born within 4 years of each other in Warsaw, both Jewish, both studied at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Art in 1930-31, both found refuge in Britain in 1940 from France escaping impending Nazi occupation and both suffered the loss of close family in the Holocaust.

Franciszka Themerson: We are proud to host our new exhibition *Stories from the Life* which will open to the general public at Ben Uri's Gallery this Friday 21st. The exhibition includes paintings and drawings from her student days at the Academy of Fine Art in Warsaw juxtaposed with later works from London. Most have never been exhibited here before and when the exhibition ends, many will be donated to the National Museum in Warsaw.

Josef Herman: We dedicate This Week to a commemoration of his life on the 25th anniversary of his passing on the 19th of February 2000. Ben Uri first exhibited Herman in December 1948 and very regularly during his long career and after his death. We are proud to hold 15 wonderful examples of his oeuvre in our **Collection** and have published some 50 essays by him on our **Essays, Catalogues and Dissertations section** courtesy of **The Jewish Quarterly**. His work is in over 50 Museum Collections across the world which demonstrates his importance to Modern British Art.

Quite a week highlighting two pioneering and influential artists who both have left an indelible mark on their adopted British visual culture.

THERE

Apart from at **Ben Uri** you can see **Herman's work across 8 other London museums** at Arts Council of Great Britain, London and Wales; The British Council; The British Museum, London; The Contemporary Arts Society, London and Wales; Museum of the Home, London; South London Art Gallery; Tate Gallery, London and Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The rest of the UK has a further 26 museums where you can enjoy and engage with his work: Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal; Aberdeen Art Gallery, Scotland; Atkinson Art Gallery, Southport; Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery; Cecil Higgins Museum, Bedford; City Art Gallery, Bristol; Glasgow Museums and City Art Gallery; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea; Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield; Huddersfield Art Gallery; Kettering Art Gallery; Leeds City Art Gallery; Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Record Service; Manchester City Art Galleries; Middlesbrough Art Gallery; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff; Nottingham Art Gallery; Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery; Rugby Art Gallery; Salford Art Gallery; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; Sheffield City Art Gallery; Southampton Art Gallery; Ulster Museum, Belfast; Wakefield City Art Gallery and York City Art Gallery.

EVERYWHERE

Living or travelling abroad? **You can see Herman's work in the following 16 museums across the globe:** The City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand; Durban Art Gallery, South Africa; Hamilton Art Gallery, Ontario, Canada; Ein Harod Art Museum, Israel; Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa; King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, South Africa; Leipzig Museum der Bildenden Kunst, Germany; Melbourne National Gallery, Australia; Museum of Fine Arts Montreal, Canada; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; National Gallery of Queensland, Brisbane; Australia National Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Peter Stuyvesant Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa; Tel Aviv Gallery, Israel; Toronto Art Gallery, Ontario, Canada; and Wellington National Gallery, New Zealand.

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 17 FEBRUARY

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

JOSEF HERMAN RA OBE

Painter and draughtsman Josef Herman was born into a Jewish, working-class family in Warsaw, Poland on 3 January 1911. He studied at the Warsaw School of Art and Decoration (1930-31), and first exhibited in his native city in 1932. Following increasing anti-Semitism, he left Poland for Brussels in 1938, where he was inspired by the Belgian Expressionists. With the onset of the Second World War, he was forced to flee via southern France and arrived in Glasgow in 1940, where he was reunited with fellow Polish artist Jankel Adler, whom he had known briefly in Warsaw. Together the two artists contributed, together with Scottish Colourist J D Fergusson, to a resurgence of the Scottish arts scene during this period. Herman moved briefly to London in 1943, exhibiting at the Lefevre Galleries, London (with L S Lowry, 1943) prior to his relocation to the Welsh mining village of Ystradgynlais (1944-55), which gave rise to his best-known body of work focusing on the Welsh miners and their community. In 1951 he was included in the South Bank Festival of Britain Exhibition and continued to exhibit widely including with the émigré art dealers Roland, Browne & Delbanco (1946, 1948, 1952, then regularly until 1975), in London, with Ben Uri (including alongside Martin Bloch in 1949), at the Geffrye Museum (with Henry Moore, 1954), the Whitechapel Art Gallery (1956) and Camden Arts Centre (1980), as well as at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (1989), Abbot Hall, Kendal (2005), and many further exhibitions with Flowers and Flowers East Galleries, who represented him for many years. He exhibited widely in the UK and abroad.



Herman was awarded an OBE in 1981 and elected to the Royal Academy in 1990. He passed on the 19th February 2000.

Learn more about Josef Herman and 400 other artists at the Ben Uri Collection

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY



EXHIBITION OF THE WEEK

JOSEF HERMAN

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

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

ARTWORK OF THE WEEK

STREET SCENE, YSTRADGYNLAIS

JOSEF HERMAN (1911-2000)

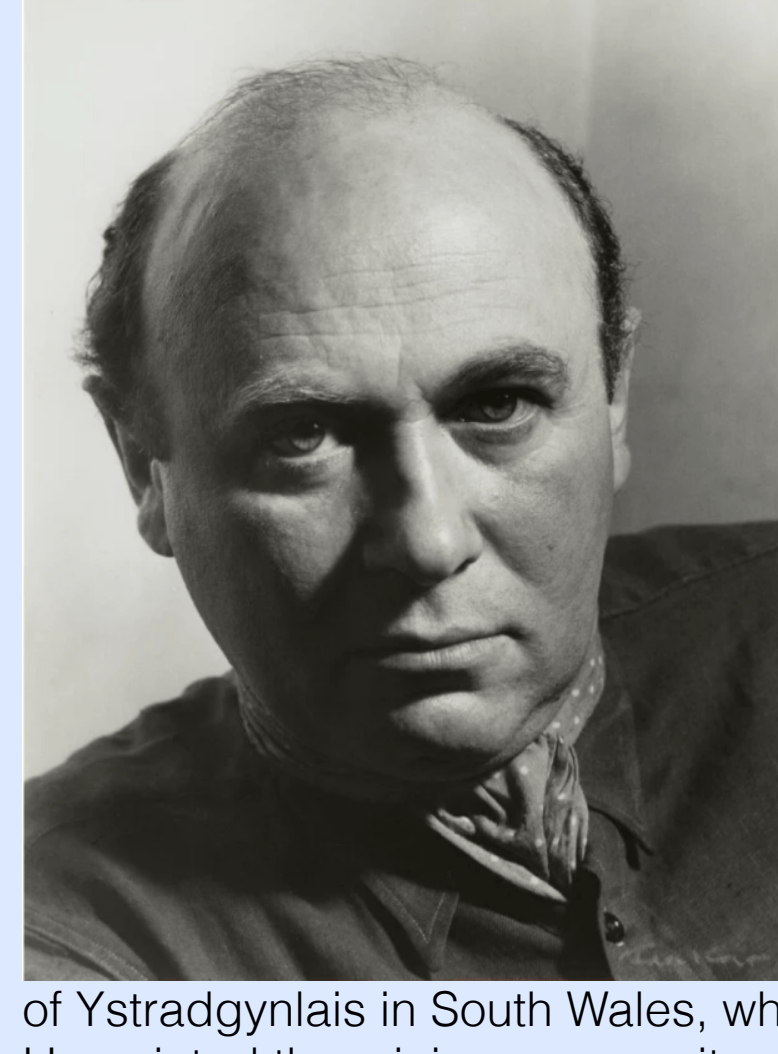
Today is the 25th anniversary of his passing in London on the 19th February 2000.



View this work and 900 others in the Ben Uri Collection

CAN'T WAIT TO LEARN MORE? READ JOSEF HERMAN'S FULL BIOGRAPHY WITH LINKS AND SOURCES ON BURU

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY



JOSEF HERMAN

Josef Herman was born into a Jewish, working-class family in Warsaw, Poland in 1911 and attended the Warsaw School of Art (1930-31). Following mounting anti-Semitism, he left Poland for Brussels in 1938, and then, following the Nazi invasion, fled via the South of France, arriving in Glasgow in 1940, where alongside Jankel Adler he contributed to the city's cultural renaissance until 1943. He is best-known for his portrayal of the mining community of Ystradgynlais in South Wales, where he lived from 1944-52. He painted the mining community as giants, often literally, as he championed the dignity of working people.

Image credit © National Portrait Gallery, London

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

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

OPENING TODAY. FRANCISZKA THEMERSON: STORIES FROM THE LIFE

Franciszka Themerson: *Stories from the Life*, provides a rare and special opportunity to explore paintings and drawings of 1929 when she was a student at the Academy of Fine Art in Warsaw, followed by her drawings of 1933, and concluding with examples of her early work in London.

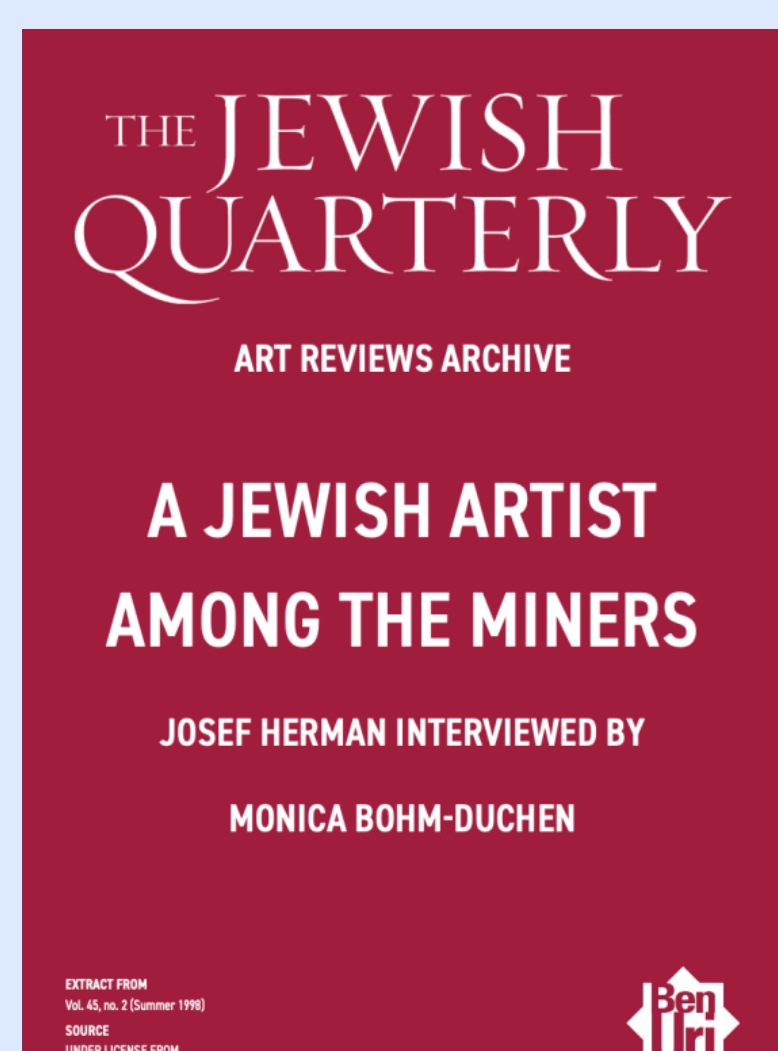
Central to the display are the early drawings from Poland and the only three surviving oil paintings from this period (1929-31) – two never previously exhibited. "What is striking about the paintings," notes Jasia Reichardt in her catalogue introduction "is not only the density of colour, but also that they are about interiors and the activities within them: dancing, dressmaking, eating".

When the exhibition ends, the works made in Poland, which restore a missing chapter from Franciszka Themerson's history, will be donated to the National Museum in Warsaw.

Dance, 1929, oil on canvas, 114 x 63 cm © The Estate of Franciszka Themerson



SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY



ESSAY OF THE WEEK

A JEWISH ARTIST AMONG THE MINERS - JOSEF HERMAN INTERVIEWED BY MONICA BOHM-DUCHEN

Read this and 50 other essays by Josef Herman courtesy of the Jewish Quarterly who he wrote for over 40 years on the international art scene.

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

ABOUT JOSEF HERMAN RA BY PETER ROSSITER



Watch this video and 100 more videos on BU TV



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- 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 benuricollection.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

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