

Press release: 10 June 2016

ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND CELEBRATED PLAYWRIGHT, DAVID STOREY
RETURNS TO HIS ARTISTIC BEGINNINGS, AS THE FORMER PUPIL OF LUCIAN FREUD
EXHIBITS PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN ARTWORKS AT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD



A TENDER TUMULT: THE ART OF DAVID STOREY
11 JUNE – 5 OCTOBER

This summer The Hepworth Wakefield will celebrate the art of one of the country's greatest living novelists and playwrights, David Storey.

From 11 June until 5 October, *A Tender Tumult: The Art of David Storey* will showcase for the very first time more than 400 small-scale works by the Wakefield-born writer.

Storey's interest in visual art can be traced back to his childhood. Following his studies at Wakefield School of Art he won a scholarship at the prestigious Slade School of Fine Art in London to study as an artist and there met British painter Stanley Spencer, sculptor Henry Moore and was taught life drawing by Lucian Freud.

Storey continued his interest in visual arts during his literary career, penning sketches for cast members and friends. He said: "The writing led to the drawings from a particular pen. As in my novels and plays, the words were trying to express themselves - a form of mysticism, in the drawings too."

On display will be drawings made during an intense late life period of creativity, a small selection of earlier works produced in the 1980s, as well as his books, archive posters of his theatre productions and films, and personal photographs.

The central focus of the exhibition will be a series of drawings comprising hundreds of images drawn daily by Storey over a six-year period (2006-2012). Emerging from his written notebooks, the drawings of shifting forms, patterns, and colours accumulate into a body of work, that like his literary characters explore the dark and brooding elements of human psyche.

Storey's eldest daughter, Professor Helen Storey, said: "The tapping of type writer keys was the sound track of our childhood, it was years before I appreciated Dad's ability to describe and reveal the human condition with such profundity. His words and images have always shocked and enlightened me – it feels right that they come back home to the Hepworth at this time in his extraordinary life".

His youngest daughter Kate Storey said: "Dad has painted and drawn intermittently throughout his life, some times including this work in posters and screens for his plays. We grew up among canvases depicting organic forms magically transformed into patterns and intricacies that, even as a little girl, drew me in. The works here have in Dad's words 'drawn themselves', each curiously linked to the next in a natural evolution of pattern and form, which somehow connects you to their making. The Hepworth is a natural home for this new work, which possess all the intensity and honesty of Dad's writing.

Born and brought up in 1930's Wakefield and unique among his generation of writers, David Storey's achievements are divided equally between his work as a novelist and as a playwright.

The son of a mineworker, he went to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, then Wakefield School of Art before relocating to London to study at the Slade School of Fine Art.

Before turning to writing, Storey had various jobs, ranging from farm labourer and showground tent-erector to professional rugby league player for Leeds. These experiences all fed into his creative work, notably the novel which made his name *This Sporting Life* (1960).

Actor, Brian Cox said: "Working on David's semi-biographical masterwork *In Celebration* was the formative experience of my dramatic working life. The inspirational combination of David and Lindsay Anderson created a foundation to my acting that is still with me almost 50 years later."

He added: "I always think of David as the seminal pastoral-poetic playwright of the post war period. The question of working class ambition and its pitfalls at the expense of creative fortitude, the erosion of the working conditions of man and his relationship to his physical environment - ideas which were well ahead of their time. Prophetic threads that have become the fabric of our so called modern materialistic society. "

Much acclaimed for both his plays and his novels; *This Sporting Life* won the Macmillan Fiction Prize in 1960, *Flight into Camden* won the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize in 1961 and the Somerset Maugham Award 1963. *Pasmore* won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize in 1973 and *Saville* won the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1976.

Storey's plays, mostly written in two or three days, include *The Restoration of Arnold Middleton* (1967), which won the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright; *The Contractor* (1969), *Home* (1970) and *The Changing Room* (1972), all of which won the New York Critics Best Play of the Year Award; *In Celebration* (1969), which was adapted as a film in 1974 starring Alan

Bates; *Life Class* (1975); and *The Farm*. In 2007 Hollywood actor Orlando Bloom made his stage debut in a new production of Storey's northern family drama, *In Celebration*. *Home* had a very-well received revival in Paris in 2015 at le Theatre L'Oeuvre, Paris.

A major new exhibition by fellow Yorkshireman, the award-winning video artist Stephen Sutcliffe will open alongside Storey's exhibition, whose work has long been a source of inspiration for Sutcliffe. His first solo show in England in 9 years, will include a newly commissioned video installation that will respond to David Storey's play, *The Contractor* (1969) and will be housed in The Calder, an art and events space housed in a 19th century mill in the gallery gardens.

The Contractor (1969) examines class and cultural differences through the turbulent relationship of an employee and the employer's son as they erect and dismantle a marquee for a wedding party. Sutcliffe will create a series of marquee-like screen structures that will be lowered and raised by gallery invigilators according to a timed sequence of screenings, playing a video of archival material from Storey's play.

Stephen Sutcliffe's new exhibition *Twixt Cup and Lip* will be on display at the gallery from Saturday 25 June – Sunday 2 October 2016.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE

Sutcliffe's work employs research into local history and is characteristically collaged from archive broadcast material. Recordings made from television or radio, clippings from newspapers or books are run together to contradict each other or find an unlikely common ground. His short films often employ several sources simultaneously, obscuring part of the footage or layering soundtracks to undermine the integrity of the original and instill a notion of doubt.

Stephen Sutcliffe was born in Harrogate in 1968 and studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee and Glasgow School of Art.

Previous exhibitions include: Tramway (2013); Stills, Edinburgh (2011); Whitechapel Gallery (Art in the Auditorium), London (2010); Cubitt, London (2009) and Nought to Sixty, ICA, London (2008).

In 2012 he was awarded the Margaret Tait Prize and he shortlisted for the Derek Jarman award in 2009 and 2014. In 2015 he won the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award.

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England and an increasing number of charitable trusts, private individuals, Patrons and Members.

The gallery celebrates its 5th anniversary on 21 May and to date has welcomed 1.5 million visitors and contributed approximately £20 million to the local economy.

Address:	The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, Wakefield, West Yorks, WF1 5AW
Telephone:	+44 (0)1924 247360
Admission:	Free
Website:	www.hepworthwakefield.org
Email:	hello@hepworthwakefield.org
Opening Hours:	10am - 5pm Tuesday – Sunday 10am - 9pm Third Thursday of the month Closed Mondays (except local school holidays and bank holidays)
Travel:	By Train: the nearest stations are Wakefield Westgate and Kirkgate By Car: the gallery is situated off the A61, with nearby links to the M1 motorway. A pay & display visitor car park is located on Thornes Lane, WF1 5QJ, with free blue badge car parking on site By Bus: the gallery is situated on main bus routes and the FreeCityBus route (Mon-Sat, 9.30am-3pm) By Bicycle: bicycle racks are located by our main entrance By Air: the nearest airport is LeedsBradford
Polite Request:	The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield
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