

Harold Gilman: Beyond Camden Town

2 March – 9 June 2019

Press View: Friday 1 March, 2-4pm

The first major exhibition in over 35 years of Harold Gilman (1876 – 1919), a British painter whose increasing engagement with post-impressionism from the continent resulted in a truly distinctive portrayal of modern urban life in early 20th century Britain.

This exhibition focuses on the final decade of the artist's short life – he died aged just 43 during the influenza pandemic – when he left behind the gritty, sombre formality of the Camden Town Group and his mentor Walter Sickert in favour of the vitality of French post-impressionism with its thickly applied paint and vivid colours. In the powerfully realist and yet enigmatic mature work, the influence of Van Gogh and Édouard Vuillard can clearly be seen.

Gilman's subject matter and his precise manner of painting were not usual bedfellows. He retained some of the precision of his formal training – he was a student at the Slade School of Art alongside artists such as Wyndham Lewis and Gwen and Augustus John - but was more experimental than it seems at first glance.

Intimate compositions of urban domestic interiors with heavily patterned wallpapers and female figures captured the essence of his subjects – an approach that led to him being called 'the Vuillard of London' and 'the English *intimiste*'. They also commented on radical social change during and around the First



Harold Gilman, Tea in the Bedsitter, 1916, oil on canvas, 71 x 92 cm, Kirklees Collection: Huddersfield Art Gallery.

World War, including shifting perceptions around gender and class, and urban living standards.

The exhibition includes over 50 works from both private collections and public collections including Tate and the British Council Collection. It includes several alternative versions and the famous 'Maple Street' interiors which feature Gilman's charlady 'Mrs. Mounter'.

The strong sense of development during the artist's final years only hints at what might have followed had Gilman not died so young. This exhibition seeks to show that, although his career spanned fewer than 15 years, Gilman can be considered one of the most distinguished British painters of the early 20th century. The exhibition also marks the centenary of the artist's death.

--Ends--

Notes to editors:

- The exhibition is curated by James Rawlin and Lara Wardle and tours from Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham Lakeside Arts. It is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.
- Alongside this exhibition Pallant House Gallery presents **'Art Quake: Post-Impressionism and British Art'**. Drawing on the gallery's collection, this exhibition brings together other British artists who, like Gilman, were inspired by Roger Fry's landmark exhibition in 1910, which introduced the works of Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse and Picasso and led to the term 'post-impressionism' being coined. It includes works by Spencer Gore, Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Mathew Smith.
- Gilman's work also features in **Tate Britain's 'The EY Exhibition: Van Gogh and Britain' (March – Aug. 2019)** which will explore how Van Gogh was inspired by Britain and how he, in turn, inspired British artists including Harold Gilman.
- Website link: <https://pallant.org.uk/whats-on/harold-gilman-beyond-camden-town/>
- [Press image download](#)

Related events at Pallant House Gallery:

Van Gogh in Britain [talk]

Thurs 21 March, 6pm

£10, £7 [under 30s)

Chris Stephens, a curator of Tate's upcoming exhibition 'Van Gogh in Britain', discusses the artist's years in England and the profound influence of British culture on his work.

Gilman's Influences: Van Gogh, Gauguin and Cézanne [talk]

Thurs 4 April, 6pm

£10, £7 [under 30s)

Anna Gruetzner Robins examines the influence of the titans of post-impressionism on Gilman's late works.

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Harold Gilman:

Beyond Camden Town [talk]

Thurs 11 April, 6pm

£10, £7 [under 30s)

Co-curators of the exhibition Lara Wardle and James Rawlin introduce Harold Gilman, an 'English post-impressionist' who developed a style distinct from his Camden Town Group contemporaries.

Listings Information:

Exhibition Dates

2 March – 9 June 2019

Pallant House Gallery

8-9 North Pallant

Chichester

West Sussex, UK

PO19 1TJ

Opening Times

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm (excl. Thursday: 10am – 8pm)

Sundays/Bank Holidays: 11am – 5pm

Mondays: Closed

Website: www.pallant.org.uk

About Pallant House Gallery:

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester is a leading UK museum that stimulates new ways of thinking about British art from 1900 to now. As well as an original and critically-acclaimed exhibition programme and a public programme with inclusion at its heart, the gallery houses one of the best collections of Modern British art in the country - all within a distinctive setting of an 18th century townhouse and a 21st century gallery.