

Important Vuillard painting acquired by Pallant House Gallery through the Acceptance in Lieu scheme

A significant oil painting by Édouard Vuillard has been allocated to Pallant House Gallery via HM Government's Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) scheme, run by the Arts Council. The painting was accepted from the estate of Lord Hutchinson and will go on display at the Gallery as part of the current 'Art Quake: Post-impressionism and British art' exhibition, until June 2019, before entering the collection displays for summer 2019.

Édouard Vuillard's *'Modèle assise dans un fauteuil, se coiffant'* (c.1903), translated as 'Model seated in a chair, combing her hair', is a remarkable addition to the Gallery's permanent collection of British and international modern art from 1900 to now. It joins an existing collection of continental artworks by artists including Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, André Derain, Pablo Picasso and Gino Severini. Until now, Vuillard has only been represented in the collection by a lithograph left to the Gallery in the Kearley Bequest through the Art Fund in 1989.

Vuillard was an important influence on the development of Modern British art, in particular the artists Walter Sickert and Harold Gilman, the focus of Gallery's main exhibition this spring. The subject of the painting – the figure in an interior – has a strong resonance with works in the Gallery's collection such as *Jack Ashore* (1912-13) by Walter Sickert as well as later works such as *Granchester Road* (1975)



Édouard Vuillard, *Modèle assise dans un fauteuil, se coiffant*, c.1903, oil on board, 61 x 67cm, Accepted by HM Government in Lieu of Inheritance Tax from the estate of Lord Hutchinson and allocated to Pallant House Gallery 2019

by Howard Hodgkin, who described himself as a 'fanatical admirer' of Vuillard, amongst numerous other artists.

The pose of the model combing her hair has a particular relevance to a drawing by Edgar Degas in the Gallery's collection entitled *Femme se peignant / Woman combing her Hair* (c.1887-1890), which was also allocated through the AIL scheme, in 2016. Degas was himself an important influence on Vuillard. This is a subject also explored in a much later work, *Girl braiding her Hair* (1999) by RB Kitaj, who was influenced by both Degas and Vuillard.

The previous owner of the painting was Jeremy Hutchinson, Lord Hutchinson of Lullington (1915-2017), a fascinating figure in 20th century British cultural life through his role in landmark trials such as the Lady Chatterley trial in 1960 and his defence of the art thief Kemton Bunton, Christine Keeler, the Great Train robber Charles Wilson and the Soviet spy George Blake. Lord Hutchinson had connections to the Chichester area as his mother Mary Hutchinson, who was closely involved with the Bloomsbury Group, owned a house at Ella Nore in West Wittering. Pallant House Gallery was chosen by the recipient of Lord Hutchinson's estate to receive the work in lieu of Inheritance Tax through the AIL scheme. The deal was brokered by Sotheby's.

Edward Harley OBE, Chairman, Acceptance in Lieu Panel said: "I am delighted to announce the allocation of Vuillard's *Modèle assise* to Pallant House Gallery in Chichester. Vuillard was an important influence on a generation of British artists and so it is particularly appropriate that this painting should join one of the pre-eminent collections of twentieth century British art. I hope that this example will encourage others to use the Acceptance in Lieu scheme to continue to enrich our public holdings."

Simon Martin, Director at Pallant House Gallery, commented: "At a time when so much in politics seems to be about Britain cutting ties with Europe, this remarkable painting by Édouard Vuillard will enable Pallant House Gallery to demonstrate how closely British art has been connected to European influences. One of my most memorable experiences in recent years has been taking Jeremy Hutchinson around our Sickert exhibition. He was perceptive and enthusiastic and he would be delighted to see his Vuillard on the Gallery's walls. We are extremely grateful to the executors of his estate, the Arts Council and
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the Acceptance in Lieu panel for choosing to allocate this wonderful painting to Pallant House Gallery."

Édouard Vuillard's *'Modèle assise dans un fauteuil, se coiffant'* (c.1903) will go on display as a special addition to the current exhibition 'Art Quake: Post-impressionism and British Art', from 30 April until 1 June 2019, before being included in the summer season collection displays.

--Ends--

Notes to Editors:

- The acceptance of the painting settled £455,000 of tax.
- Édouard Vuillard is the subject of a forthcoming exhibition at The Holburne Museum, Bath, entitled 'Vuillard: The Poetry of Everyday Life', from 24 May – 15 September 2019.

Details of the painting are as follows:

Édouard Vuillard

Modèle assise dans un fauteuil, se coiffant
signed *E Vuillard* (lower right)
oil on board
61 by 67cm., 24 by 26 3/8in.
painted *circa* 1903.

Provenance

Arthur Fontaine, Paris (sold: Hôtel Drouot, Paris, *Vente Fontaine*, 13th April 1932, lot 75)
Jos Hessel & Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, Paris until January 1933 when sold to St John (Jack) Hutchinson; by descent to
Jeremy Hutchinson

Exhibited

Edinburgh, Royal Scottish Academy, *Pierre Bonnard & Edouard Vuillard*, 1948, no. 93 (titled *Studio at Meudon*)

London, Institute of Contemporary Art, *Forty Years of Modern Art*, 1948, no. 98 (titled *Studio at Meudon*)

Literature

Antoine Salomon & Guy Cogeval, *Vuillard, The Inexhaustible Glance. Critical Catalogue of Paintings and Pastels*, Paris, 2003, vol. II, no. VII-235, illustrated in colour p. 659

The **Acceptance in Lieu** scheme is administered by the Arts Council. The Acceptance in Lieu Panel, chaired by Edward Harley OBE, advises on whether property offered in lieu is of suitable importance and offered at a value which is fair to both nation and taxpayer. ALL allows those who have a bill to Inheritance Tax to pay the tax by transferring important cultural, scientific or historic objects to the nation. Material accepted under the scheme is allocated to public collections and is available for all. In the last decade this important government initiative has brought over £330m worth of treasures into public ownership for the enjoyment of all - see more at: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-museums/cultural-property/tax-incentives/acceptance-lieu/>

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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. pallant.org.uk

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