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Press Release

John Piper – Selected Prints and Works on Paper



Illustrated: John Piper, *Sketch for a Construction*, 1933, pen and chalk, 5 1/4 x 6 1/2 in 13.5 x 16.5 cm, POA

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to announce its exhibition, *John Piper – Works on Paper*. The exhibition will open in Cromwell Place on 19 July, continuing until 24 July in Gallery 10. Thereafter the exhibition will move to the Woodstock gallery until the end of August. The exhibition consists of drawings, paintings and prints right from the beginning to the end of Piper's career. The earliest work, *Sketch for a Construction* 1933 has not been seen in public since it was exhibited in the Tate in the 1984 exhibition curated by Sir Alan Bowness. This work has resided in a private collection since being purchased from the Marlborough Gallery and dates to the transformative year that Piper travelled to Paris and encountered abstraction, the movement that was to inform all of his work for the next few years of that decade.

Another highlight of the exhibition is the exquisite painting 'Venice Beach' for 'Death in Venice'. John Piper's sets for Benjamin Britten's last opera *Death in Venice* represent the summit of his career as a designer for the theatre and of his long association with the English Opera Group of which he had been a co-founder. First performed at Aldeburgh in June 1973, the composer was by then too unwell to conduct the piece himself. The Piper family's association with the work is a strong one, with the artist's wife Myfanwy writing the opera's English libretto. For her too it was a culmination of a series of highly successful collaborations with Britten as his favoured librettist.

We are also delighted to include several prints by Piper, a medium with which he has been long associated with, especially for his work documenting Britain for the Shell guides. The *Stones and Bones* portfolio was printed in 1978 by Kelpra Editions and we are delighted to include these works in the current exhibition. These prints have exquisite provenance, coming from the collection of the late Phil May, former front man of the pop band The Pretty Things that rose to fame in the 1960s.

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Venue

Zuleika Gallery, 1-5 Cromwell Place, South Kensington, London SW7 2JE

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Opening Hours

19 July – 24 July at Cromwell Place

Opening Hours: Tuesday- Sunday 10 – 5pm

Exhibition travels to:

Zuleika Gallery, 6 Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SP from 30 July until the end of August.

Opening Hours:

About the Artist

John Piper (1903 – 1992) was born in Epsom Surrey. He trained at the Richmond and Kingston School of Art from 1928 and then for two years at The Royal College of Art. Throughout his artistic career his style changed and varied. Piper is perhaps most well known for being an official war artist during WWII, capturing the depiction of war damaged churches and landmarks, most famously Coventry Cathedral. Piper was comfortable working in different media and creative realms - he was a successful set designer, printmaker, stained-glass window designer and writer. Piper's works are held in many prestigious international public and private collections including the Tate, Museum of Modern Art, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

About Zuleika Gallery

Founded in Oxford in 2015, Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. The gallery operated in the heart of St James's from 2017- 2021 and has now taken up permanent residence in Cromwell Place, South Kensington. The Woodstock gallery opened in August 2020. The building, which dates to the early 17th Century is a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace. The gallery is committed to making art accessible and caters for both the entry level collector and the connoisseur. It also offers bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors.