



Press Release

27 July 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British surrealist artist celebrated at Leeds College of Art

Anthony Earnshaw: The Distribution of Wishes
4 August - 8 September 2017, Vernon Street Gallery

Opening event: Thursday 3 August, 5-7pm

Leeds College of Art is pleased to announce its latest exhibition featuring work by Ilkley-born surrealist artist Anthony Earnshaw (1924 - 2001). This exhibition is being curated by Catriona McAra, in collaboration with Flowers Gallery and Gail Earnshaw.

A self-taught artist, Earnshaw worked as an engineering fitter then later as a lathe turner and a crane driver, whilst developing an interest in surrealism through his love of poetry, literature and jazz. He began exhibiting his own work in the 1960s after being persuaded to hold a retrospective by his friend, surrealist artist and former Leeds College of Art teacher, Patrick Hughes. Earnshaw went on to teach art, eventually taking up a fellowship at Leeds Polytechnic, before leaving to concentrate on his own practice in 1985. Alongside numerous artworks, Earnshaw published two illustrated novels and a cartoon series for the *Times Educational Supplement*. One of his early works is held in the Tate collection.

This exhibition is an opportunity to experience the divergent range of Earnshaw's work, including his works on paper, boxed assemblages and paintings. Set over three floors at the College's historic Vernon Street building, the show will also include rare sketchbooks and archival material.

A bursary in Anthony Earnshaw's name was set by Patrick Hughes in memory of his friend in 2016. The Bursary provides assistance towards costs for students studying Access to HE Diploma (Art & Design) at Leeds College of Art.

A free public lecture with renowned surrealism expert Professor Dawn Ades will be held on Thursday 31 August 2017 to accompany the exhibition. Professor Ades is a Fellow of the British Academy, and was awarded a CBE in 2014 for her services to art history. She has published works on photomontage, Dada, surrealism and women artist, and will use her expertise to give an insightful lecture on Earnshaw's boxes and prints.

Editor's Notes

Press are invited to Vernon Street Gallery to preview the exhibition on Thursday 3 August, 5 - 7pm. Refreshments will be served. Gail Earnshaw, Anthony Earnshaw's widow, will be present to answer questions.

Please RSVP to: sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk or 0113 202 8044.

The exhibition will run from 4 August to 8 September 2017 at Leeds College of Art, Vernon Street Gallery, Leeds, LS2 9AQ. www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Image: Anthony Earnshaw, *Distribution of Wishes*, 1965. Oil on canvas. 104 x 63 cm. Private Collection.

Events:

Public Lecture - Professor Dawn Ades

Thursday 31 August 5-7pm, Leeds College of Art, Vernon Street Gallery

For more information and to book tickets visit www.leeds-art.ac.uk/the-distribution-of-wishes

Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. The College has an impressive history of notable past students, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the College, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The College's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries. Leeds College of Art has recently started of building works on a new £14 million state-of-the-art expansion, due to be completed by summer 2018. The expansion marks the start of an exciting journey for the College, with plans in place to become the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Flowers Gallery

Established in 1970 by Angela Flowers, Flowers Gallery is a leading contemporary art gallery, with two London locations in Mayfair and Shoreditch and one in Chelsea, New York. Flowers Gallery currently represents more than 50 international artists and artist's estates through a dedicated programme of exhibitions, and participation in high-profile international art fairs.

www.flowersgallery.com/