



Media Release: 28 April 2008

British Surrealism & Other Realities: The Sherwin Collection

Exhibition: Friday 23 May – Sunday 17 August 2008

Press View: Thursday 22 May 2008, from noon (by arrangement)

mima's leading exhibition for summer 2008 presents works from Dr Jeffrey Sherwin's unique collection of British Surrealism. The exhibition will comprise a substantial number of works from what is widely acknowledged to be the most significant collection of British Surrealism. Selected works have been loaned to institutions in the UK and abroad on countless occasions, but this is the first time so many works from the collection are brought together in a major exhibition, which will occupy mima's ground floor galleries.

Important works will include Eileen Agar *Angel of Mercy*, 1934; John Banting, *Aries*, 1935; Roland Penrose, *Unsleeping Beauty*, 1947; Ithell Colquhoun, *Dance of the Nine Opals*, 1942; Julian Trevelyan, *Captive in Eden*, 1936; Cecil Collins, *Obsequies of time*, 1933; Conroy Maddox, *Dénouement*, 1946 and FE McWilliam, *Spanish Head*, 1938-39. The artworks will be presented alongside a unique set of original manuscripts, photographs, posters, rare Surrealist volumes and curiosities that inspired the collection.

British Surrealism & Other Realities celebrates Dr Jeffrey Sherwin's commitment and unique approach to collecting, which he describes as 'joined up writing'. He began to research and collect British Surrealism with unparalleled enthusiasm, following a serendipitous encounter with a British Surrealism exhibition at Leeds City Art Gallery in 1986. Comprising over 300 paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs and other Surrealist ephemera, Dr Jeffrey Sherwin's house has been built around the collection.

The Sherwin Collection not only covers British Surrealism but encompasses several movements and styles from the same period in history: Modernism, Surrealism, Ceramics, South Pacific fetishes, Kinetic and Op art, as well as art from his extensive travels abroad - from Nepal to Papua New Guinea. The symbol of 'the head' features prominently, with examples by Emmy Bridgwater, Peter Blake, René Magritte, Nigel Henderson, Henry Moore and Eduardo Paolozzi. The collection also has a particular concern with the 1950's, manifested through works by Patrick Heron, Roger Hilton and Mary Martin.

British Surrealism & Other Realities: The Sherwin Collection is presented alongside *Material Culture - Recently Gifted Works*, from 23 May - 17 August 2008.

To complement the exhibition mima is publishing a richly illustrated catalogue designed by APFEL (a practice for everyday life), including a text by art historian, critic and curator Andrew Wilson and an interview with Dr Jeffrey Sherwin.

ends

Notes to editors

British Surrealism & Other Realities: The Sherwin Collection - Artists

Eileen Agar / Edward Allington / Kenneth Armitage / John Armstrong / Lawrence Atkinson / John Banting / Glen Baxter / Peter Blake / David Bomberg / Emmy Bridgwater / Horace Brodzky / Reg Butler / Francis Butterfield / Leonora Carrington / Cecil Collins / Ithell Colquhoun / John Davies / Toni del Renzio / Anthony Earnshaw / Sir Jacob Epstein / Max Ernst / Merlyn Evans / Henri Gaudier-Brzeska / William Gear / Sam Haile / SW Hayter / Nigel Henderson / Patrick Heron / Roger Hilton / Damien Hirst / Patrick Hughes / Humphrey Jennings / Leon Kossoff / Jacob Kramer / Maurice Lambert / Conroy Maddox / René Magritte / Mary Martin / André Masson / FE McWilliam / Bernard Meadows / Reuben Mednikoff / John Melville / Bernard Meninsky / ELT Mesens / Joan Miró / Henry Moore / Desmond Morris / Brett Murray / Gordon Onslow Ford / Grace Pailthorpe / Eduardo Paolozzi / Roland Penrose / John Piper / Man Ray / Ceri Richards / Edith Rimmington / William Roberts / Peter Rose Pulham / Kurt Schwitters / John Selby Bigge / Humphrey Spender / Cecil Stephenson / Julian Trevelyan / John Tunnard / Leon Underwood / John Welson / Scottie Wilson / Bill Woodrow

About mima

mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art presents temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present. Featuring work by internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, design, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Exhibitions change every quarter.

Opening times

Tues - Sat 10.00am-5.00pm

Sun 12noon-4.00pm

Closed Monday

Open Bank Holidays (Sunday opening hours apply)

Admission FREE

mima

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

Centre Square

Middlesbrough

TS1 2AZ

t: +44 (0) 1642 726 720

f: +44 (0) 1642 726 722

e: mima@middlesbrough.gov.uk

www.visitmima.com

For further press information and images contact:

Nina Byrne, Marketing Manager: 01642 726 710 / nina_byrne@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Victoria Huntley, Marketing Assistant: 01642 726 713 /

victoria_huntley@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kirsty Bullock, Marketing Assistant: 01642 726 713 / kirsty_bullock@Middlesbrough.gov.uk

