

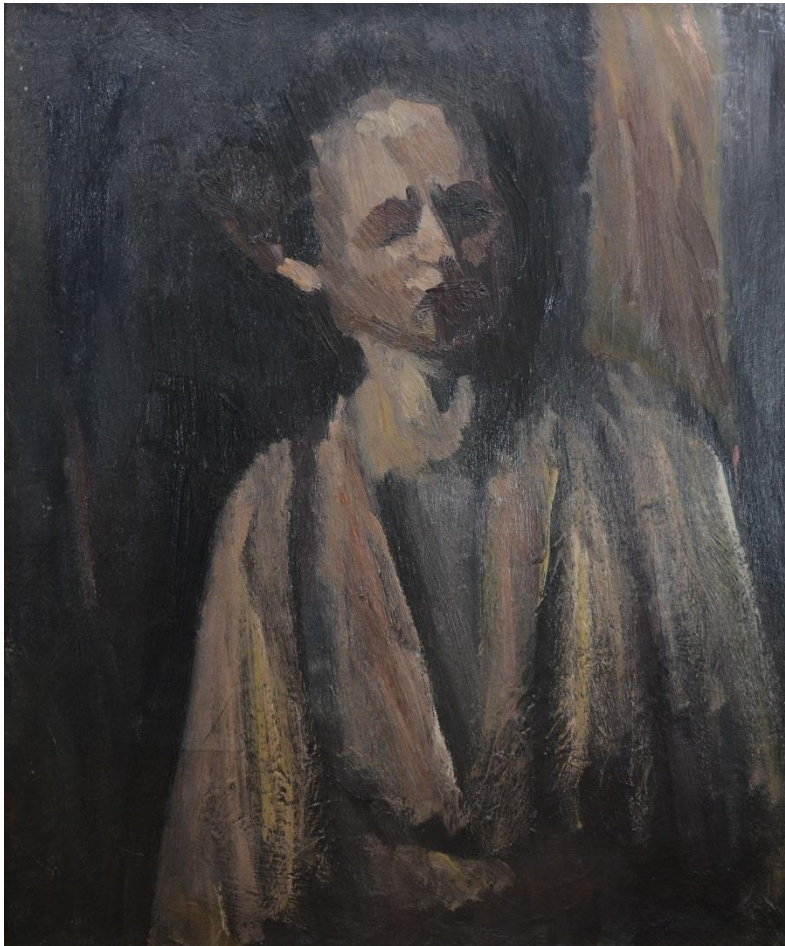
PRESS RELEASE

DAVID BOMBERG

Thursday 8th March - Saturday 14th April 2018

“probably the most original, stubborn, radical intelligence...” (Frank Auerbach) [1]

Beaux Arts London presents a solo exhibition of paintings by the late David Bomberg (1890-1957), an artist who is seen today as one of the foremost figures in British avant-garde art.



Self Portrait, 1931, Oil on canvas, 76 x 64 cm

This superb group of paintings and drawings originate from the Artist's estate in the late 1950s. "The collection highlights some of the complexities of Bomberg's creative and intellectual life, the tenacious deepening of ideas over his lifetime and, above all, his remarkably prescient responses to the major events and movements of his age."^[2]

Born in Birmingham in 1890 to Polish-Jewish parents, Bomberg was largely undervalued in his lifetime. Today, however, his series of colourful, complex geometric compositions which combine the influences of cubism and futurism are renowned and Bomberg stands as one of the masters of British painting.

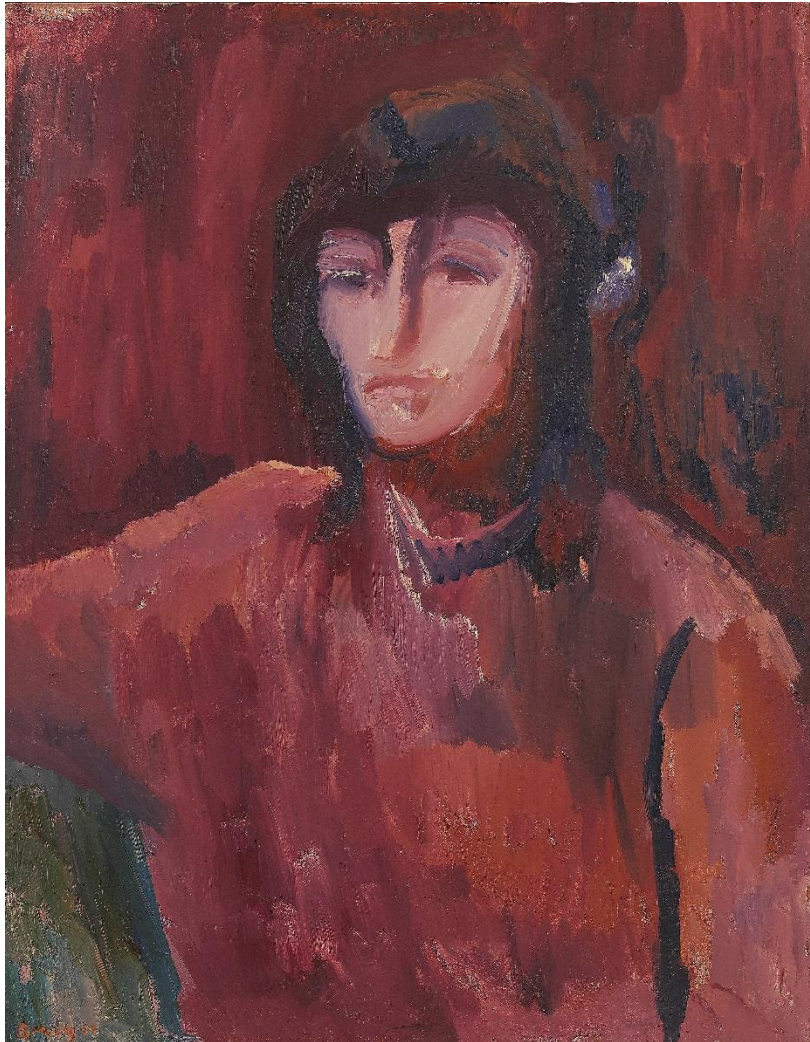
Three facts that you may not know about David Bomberg:

1. The late, musical legend, David Bowie was one of Bomberg's greatest collectors. He confessed to being a big "fan" of his work. Many of Bomberg's paintings and drawings were sold in the Bowie/Collector Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Auction at Sotheby's.
2. David Bomberg was awarded a grant by the JEAS (Jewish Education Art Society) to study at Slade School of Art, where he was later expelled for his challenging approach to conformism and the traditional teaching methods. In an excerpt taken from his Report Card, his three professors suggested that once Bomberg had "...learnt a little more modesty and humility and ceased to theorise and analyse quite so much, he may well become a noteworthy artist..."
3. In the late 1940s, Bomberg taught at the Borough Polytechnic (now London South Bank University), where Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossof were amongst his pupils. Auerbach once described his former tutor as "probably the most original stubborn, radical intelligence that was to be found in art schools."



Bargee, 1919, Watercolour on paper, 42 x 54 cm

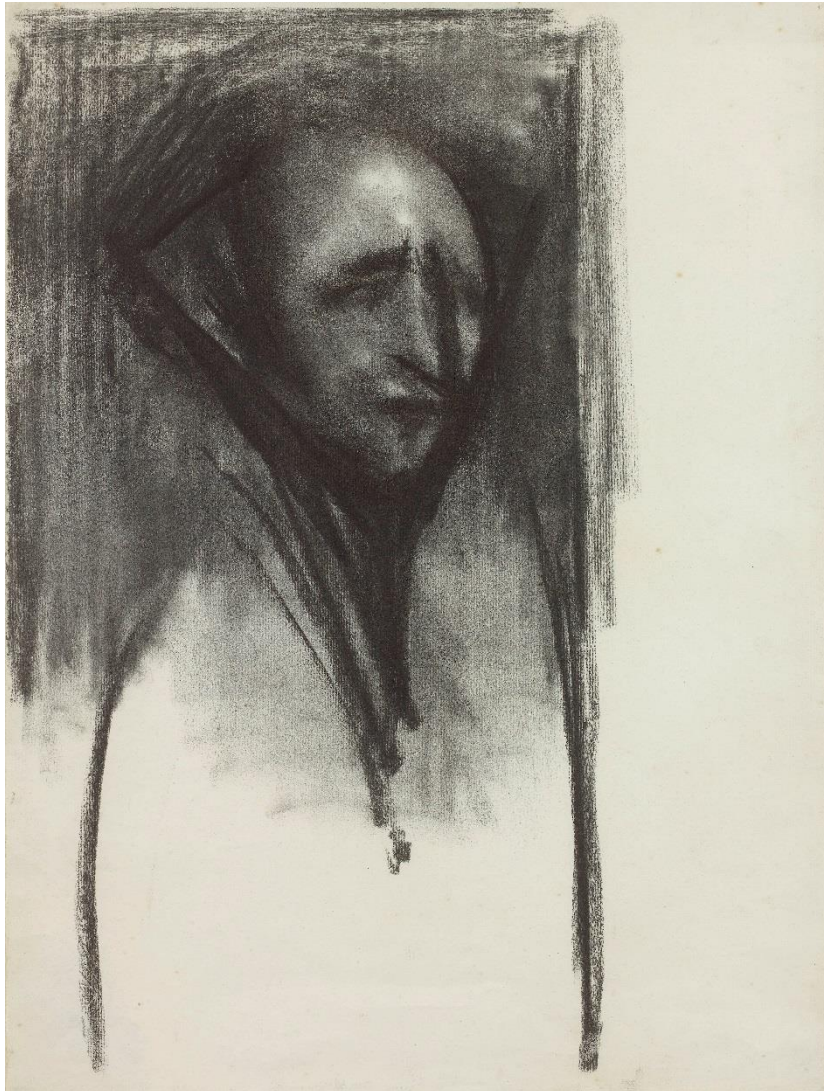
“...a career in which he painted cubo-futurist paintings quite unlike anyone else's before the First World War, following that with a lyrical, expressive landscape style between the wars. In doing so he went very much against the prevailing modernist movement towards extreme abstraction.”[3]



Portrait of Dinora, 1952, Oil on canvas, 91 x 71 cm

“You simply cannot judge Bomberg’s work by the ordinary art notions [...] We welcome experimentalists of the Bomberg type: they have enlarged the world by giving deeper meaning to the thing before our nose: they have widened the scope of artistic expression and thus have liberated new energies.” [4]

From his early career, Bomberg's superb draughtsmanship was exposed in a lifelong series of portraits, often of his wife, members of his family and his acquaintances.



Self Portrait, 1938, Charcoal on paper, 25 x 34 cm

“Bomberg executed a number of self-portraits during the 1930s, partly due to the fact that he could not afford to pay for models but also because he was intent on one day attaining the reputation of great artists who had gone before him”^[5]



Flowers in a Vase, 1943, Oil on canvas, 110 x 82 cm

“I was in the habit of passing a lady who sold flowers outside Gloucester Road tube station. I thought that if I spent a little housekeeping money on a bunch that I picked, David might be induced to start painting them. I took a bunch home, arranged them in a vase on the living room table and left them there” (Lillian Bomberg)[6]

The exhibition boasts around thirty different works by Bomberg and encompasses different subjects throughout his life including his influence on modern art, his Jewish origins and family, the profound effect of both World Wars and his time spent in Jerusalem and Spain.

David Bomberg will run at Beaux Arts London on Maddox Street from Thursday 8th March until Saturday 14th April 2018.

For further information please contact Susannah Joyce on **0207 493 1155 / info@beauxartslondon.uk**

[1] (Frank Auerbach, quoted in Richard Cork, *David Bomberg*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1994, p.258)

[2] N. Usherwood, *An Awkward Genius*, 2018

[3] N. Usherwood, *An Awkward Genius*, 2018

[4] S. Winsten, *David Bomberg: A Force in Modern Art, Voices*, 1920

[5] R. Cork, *David Bomberg*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1987, p.193

[6](Lilian Bomberg, quoted in Richard Cork, *David Bomberg*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1987, p.248).

For more information or images, please visit our website
Beaux Arts, 48 Maddox Street, London W1S 1AY, T: 0207 4931155