

Dora Gordine: Sculptor, Artist and Designer

Kingston Museum is thrilled to be a venue for the major retrospective exhibition of the work of Dora Gordine—*Dora Gordine: Sculptor, Artist, Designer*—which opens on 11th February 2009.

Gordine (1906 –1991) was an internationally recognized sculptor in the 1940s and 50s and her life was closely interwoven with the turbulent events and art world of the 20th century. From 1936 to 1991 she lived with her husband, the Honourable Richard Hare, in Dorich House, the home they built together on Kingston Hill.

Presented by Kingston University, this retrospective will take place on three sites: Kingston Museum, Dorich House Museum and the Stanley Picker Gallery. It will gather together for the first time many works not seen in public for over 60 years. The exhibition at Kingston Museum looks at the many places where Dora lived and worked: Estonia, Paris, Berlin, Singapore, London and Hollywood. As well as works by Gordine herself, visitors will also be able to see drawings and sculptures by her friends and contemporaries including Henry Moore, Aristide Maillol and Jacob Epstein. Some of these are on loan from national collections such as the Tate and National Portrait Gallery.

Lottery Award

Due to a Heritage Lottery Award of £46,000, the exhibition will benefit from the services of a professional exhibition design consultancy and the installation period, which will include a degree of display building and fitting, will last for 3 weeks. The Award has also made possible a rich programme of free events, many of which will take place at Kingston Museum.

See web site for details: <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/doragordineexhibition/>

Private reception

Friends of Kingston Museum are invited to a private reception and tour of the exhibition by co-curator, Dr Jonathan Black, on Tuesday 17th February at 7pm.



Just a Moment, exhibition of photographs by Stuart Heydinger, ends on 10th January 2009

Exhibition: Dora Gordine, Sculptor, Artist, Designer, 11th February to 2nd May 2009

Private View for Kingston Museum Friends of the Dora Gordine exhibition on Tuesday 17th February 2009 at 7pm

Friends AGM in the Museum, Wednesday 11th March 2009 at 7pm

Friends' lecture: Muybridge in Focus by Peta Cook, Curator of Kingston Museum, Tuesday 26th May 2009

Look out for details of the Museum's full exhibition programme and the Friends' lectures and events programme for 2009 which will be published shortly.

See also the museum's web site

www.kingston.gov.uk/museum

‘The Return of the Native’

Kingston’s other great photographer, Stuart Heydinger, returned to his birthplace for the opening of the exhibition, *Just a Moment*, on 7th November.

Heydinger, who moved to Germany in 1979, was interviewed at the private view at the Museum by John Bryant, former editor-in-chief at the *Daily Telegraph*. He recounted some interesting anecdotes regarding the taking of his photographs and revealed something of the wit and guile needed to become a top press photographer. For example, the photograph of Sir Edmund Hillary and Vivian Fuchs at the South Pole was one of only a handful he was able to take before the camera froze. He was also questioned on his reasons for leaving the profession in 1970 after witnessing the Biafran war and famine. It was clear that the latter was still a painful memory for him, some 38 years later.



Kingston-born

Heydinger, the son of a soldier, was born in Kingston in 1927 at what was then ‘The Barracks’ and is now ‘The Keep’ in King’s Road. Leader of Kingston Council, Councillor Derek Osbourne, who introduced the evening’s events, was able to show assembled guests a copy of his birth certificate. Other guests included the Mayor, David Berry, who declared the exhibition open, Doris Weiler-Streichsbier, the curator of the exhibition at the Landesmuseum in Oldenburg, Kingston’s German partner city and representatives from the German Embassy and German School.

The next day Museum staff and volunteers were thrilled to see Heydinger return with his son. Staff member Amirah Rahman said: “after missing out on the opening, I was pleasantly surprised by Stuart’s revisit the next day. Despite his busy schedule he was kind enough to take the time to have a chat with me and also let me have a photo with him and his son. The exhibition is amazing and if you haven’t been able to take a look, please do—you will not be disappointed”.

The exhibition runs until 10th January 2009.

Popular Author’s New Book

Despite the Heydinger Private View taking place on the previous evening, Saturday 8th November saw the return of Friends of the Museum and other fans of *Surrey Comet* journalist and local historian, June Sampson, to the launch and signing of her latest book, *Kingston in the Fifties*. This time June has joined forces with popular local historian and book publisher, Mark Davison, to produce a volume of pictures that have rarely been seen before. They come from a collection of glass negatives which June has kindly donated to the Local History Room. One of the ‘bathing beauties’ at Surbiton lagoon in 1953—an image featured on the back cover—had recognised herself and came along to surprise the authors.



In total over one hundred attended the signing and reception and 70 copies were sold on the day.

Local History Room News

London Maze

Jill and Emma attended the 'London Maze' at the Guildhall in London on 11th October for the first time. Societies and local history organisations from all over London came together to promote their services to over 2,500 family and local enthusiasts.

Library Workshops

Following the success of the Local History Room taster sessions last year, we have been busy visiting Surbiton, Hook and New Malden libraries to introduce the public to the resources and archives held in the Local History Room. Examples of primary sources are selected from the local history and archive collections to represent the area in which the library is located and to inspire memories from the public.

Teacher Training Workshops

Did you know that over 80 students visited the Local History Room in the last two months! As part of our continued relationship with Kingston and Roehampton Universities, 63 teacher trainers came to explore the original resources and learn how to use them with the National Curriculum to plan an assignment for primary children. We also introduced 17 drama students from Kingston College to documents relating to Tolworth and Surbiton to inspire a new play to be performed at the Cornerhouse.

A 'Royal' peel of bells for Kingston's charter

A peel of bells rang out across Kingston Market Place on 5th and 12th October to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Kingston's first surviving charter granted by King John in 1208. We received a note from the bell ringers at all Saints Church telling us that 'the visiting peel band rang a peel of maximus—on 12 bells—and the local band rang on 10'. Ringing on 10 bells is called 'royal', particularly appropriate for a Royal Borough and a Royal Charter!

Our thanks to Maggie Paul for organising this splendid tribute.

Civil Defence Archives

Rob Bell, Kingston's recently appointed Contingency Planning Manager, has transferred to us Civil Defence photographs from the 1950s including an album dedicated to Surbiton's Civil Defence Day on 16th October 1954. —cups of tea feature very strongly! The album may be seen by appointment in the Local History Room. Please ring 020 85478.6735



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Please ring us on 020 8547 6460 if you are disabled and require assistance or a parking space at the museum.

Parking is available at North Kingston Centre. For assistance ring 020 8547 6738.

If you are unable to read this document because of disability or language, we can assist you. Please contact the Council helpline on 020 8547 5757 or ask someone to call on your behalf.

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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Chairman's letter

Friends' Chairman, Peter Foot, has written his usual circular letter to all Friends Members which we are enclosing separately.

Volunteers

We would like to welcome the newest **museum volunteers** into Friends' membership: **Antonia Ross**, a former graphic designer who helped produce the labels for the Heydinger exhibition; **Julie Breen**, an archaeology student from UCL, who is helping to audit our archaeological material; and **Sarah Ford**, an Interior Design student at Kingston University who helped install the Heydinger exhibition and is going to work with the exhibition designers on the upcoming Dora Gordine retrospective.

All Friends of the Museum are invited to apply as volunteers for the Dora Gordine Retrospective opening on 11th February at Kingston Museum, Dorich House and the Stanley Picker Gallery. A number of different posts will be available and training will be given. If you want to be part of 'Team Gordine', just fill in the questionnaire which you will be receiving by post and return it as soon as possible.

A Thank You from the Shooting Star Trust

We have received a thank you from the Trust for helping to raise £108 for the Shooting Star Children's Hospice at David Gibbon's lecture on 18th November.

Brill Collection

We are working with Kingston University's Illustration and Design Students to produce more works for this important and growing special Collection. More details will be available soon.

Lecture and events

Tuesday 26th May 2009 at 7 for 7.30pm: *Muybridge in Focus* by Peta Cook.

Wednesday 11th March 2009 at 7pm: Friends' AGM

Les Kirkin Memorial Competition

This is a final reminder for budding photographers to win an amazing first prize of £250 in photographic equipment!

Photographs on the theme of 'Celebrations, Festivals, Carnivals and Street Parties in the Royal Borough' have to be taken by 31st December 2008 and sent to the Local History Room by 1st February 2009. You have to be in it to win it!

Welcome back from all the Staff, Friends and Volunteers to Heritage Assistant, **Tove Bellingham**, who returned to the Museum from maternity leave in December.