

Artist Keith Roberts makes new work responding to *War in the Sunshine*

13 January – 19 March 2017

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London

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The Estorick has invited London-based artist Keith Roberts to produce three new artworks that reflect upon and complement *War in the Sunshine*, and which are shown as part of the exhibition.

As Roberts explains, *'The photographs of W. J. Brunell became my key to exploring the exhibition. Brunell, although an official war photographer, remained essentially a civilian. Unless a person has military experience themselves, then all contact with any portrayal of war and conflict is necessarily through a civilian's eyes. How could it be otherwise?'*

Roberts' first work consists of a series of bells, made of plaster but painted to look like lead. Lying on their sides on a low platform along the centre of the gallery, they offer a reflection on the bells which fell silent during the First World War.

The second work is a flying machine made of paper and string, not a model of Carline's Sopwith Camel, but a structure of fragility and menace.

The last piece is a free-standing structure that reflects the often static and claustrophobic nature of the campaign. On the face of this structure is a post box. This is a reminder of the importance of letter writing and communication in all theatres of the First World War and the impressive nature of the postal service itself.

War in the Sunshine is supported by Kingston University, London and the Paul Mellon Centre

About Keith Roberts

Keith Roberts studied fine art in Newcastle and then at the Royal College of Art in London. He was awarded a place at the Delfina Studio Trust and in 2005 an Abbey Fellowship to study at the British School at Rome. In 2010 he studied stone carving at the Portland Stone and Quarry Trust and in 2012 a piece of his sculpture became the central element in the show *Regeneration Bell and Kindred Works*. In 2015 a public commission administered by Oriel Wreccsam presented the opportunity to further develop the use of a bell, which in turn led to a prize-winning installation at St Nicholas Church as part of the Deptford X festival in 2015.

About the Estorick Collection

The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art is internationally renowned for its core of Futurist works. It comprises some 120 paintings, drawings, watercolours, prints and sculptures by many of the most prominent Italian artists of the Modernist era. There are six galleries, two of which are used for temporary exhibitions. Since opening in 1998, the Estorick has established a reputation and gained critical acclaim as a key venue for bringing Italian art to the British public.

Listings information

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, 39a Canonbury Square, London N1 2AN

T: +44 (0)20 7704 9522

www.estorickcollection.com Twitter: @Estorick

Opening hours for *War in the Sunshine*

13 January – 19 March 2017

Wednesdays – Saturdays 11.00-18.00, Sundays 12.00-17.00

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Admission: £6.50, Concs £4.50. Includes entry to exhibition and permanent collection.

Transport: Victoria Line, Overground and First Capital Connect to Highbury & Islington.

For further press information, please contact

Alison Wright, Press Consultant for the Estorick Collection

alison@alisonwrightpr.com or call 01608 646 175 or 07814 796 930