

Estorick Collection reopens in January with new exhibition

War in the Sunshine: The British in Italy 1917-1918

13 January – 19 March 2017

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London

www.estorickcollection.com @Estorick

Following its five-month refurbishment, London's Estorick Collection reopens in January 2017 with *War in the Sunshine*, a new exhibition of 75 rarely shown artworks revealing the little-known role of British forces in Italy during the First World War. On special loan from the Imperial War Museum, they include 24 drawings, paintings by official war artist Sydney Carline, and some 50 images by war photographers W.J. Brunell and Ernest Brooks. *War in the Sunshine* runs from 13 January until 19 March 2017.

Highlighting this forgotten aspect of Britain's First World War, the exhibition showcases the enthralling drawings and paintings of Sydney Carline (1888-1929), first produced in his own time as a fighter pilot flying a Sopwith Camel in northern Italian skies, and then as an official war artist attached to the RAF.

Ernest Brooks (1878-1941), an official photographer on the Western Front, is best known for his iconic images of British forces on the Somme and at Passchendaele. The less well-known photographs he took during his official assignment to Italy in 1917-1918 sensitively portray the plight of front-line combat troops and dispossessed Italian civilians scratching a living behind the Anglo-Italian lines.

The photographs taken by William Joseph Brunell (1878-1960) reveal an instinctive feel for the stunning views of northern Italy's mountainous terrain and of ruins dotting the bleak front line along the River Piave north of Venice. He also produced intimate and sympathetic images of many of the young Italian women employed by the British Army Service Corps, unloading railway wagons of supplies, washing British Army uniforms and preparing meals.

War in the Sunshine is curated by Dr Jonathan Black, an expert in British Art and the First World War. He is Senior Research Fellow in History of Art, Kingston University, London. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue with essays on Sydney Carline's First World War by Jonathan Black and exploring Italy's experience of the First

World War by historian Mark Thompson (author of *The White War: Life and Death on the Italian Front, 1915-1919*, published in 2009).

Also included in the exhibition is a series of works by London-based contemporary artist Keith Roberts, who is responding to the themes and concerns of the show.

The exhibition is supported by Kingston University, London and the Paul Mellon Centre.

Note to Editors

It has been all but forgotten that in the aftermath of the Italian defeat at Caporetto in October-November 1917, Britain despatched an Expeditionary Force of nearly 120,000 men to help stop advancing German and Austro-Hungarian forces. By the summer of 1918 British troop levels had fallen to just over 70,000 but these were to play a significant part in Italian victories in the Battle of the Solstice (June 1918) and on the Piave in the Vittorio Veneto campaign (October-November 1918). Five squadrons of the RAF and 40 batteries of heavy artillery played key roles in both victories.

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

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Opening Hours

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

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