

Press Release

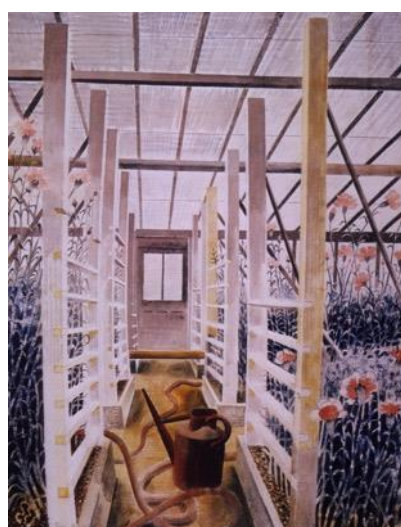
Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship

English Artist Designers: 1922 to 1942

Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne 27 May – 17 September 2017

Millennium Galleries, Sheffield: September 2017 – January 2018

Compton Verney, Warwickshire: 17 March – 9 June 2018



Towner Art Gallery is delighted to announce *Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship, English Artist Designers: 1922 to 1942*, a major new exhibition that also marks the 75th anniversary of the artist's tragic death during the Second World War. Opening at Towner Art Gallery on 27 May 2017 and touring the UK until 2018, the show explores the significant relationships and collaborations between artist and designer **Eric Ravilious** and his circle of friends and affiliates including **Paul Nash, John Nash, Enid Marx, Barnett Freedman, Tirzah Garwood, Edward Bawden, Thomas Hennell, Douglas Percy Bliss, Peggy Angus, Helen Binyon** and **Diana Low**.

In April 2017, Thames & Hudson publish *Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship*, the first biography about the network of inter-war British artists and designers centered on Ravilious by the co-curator of the exhibition, Andy Friend with an introduction by Alan Powers.

Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship focuses on a group of artists who embraced both fine art and design and had a singular impact on England's visual culture in the 1930s, shedding new light on their creative processes and shared experiences. The show highlights key moments when the lives and work of these artist designers intersected, with a focus on the women within Ravilious' network including his wife, the talented wood engraver Tirzah Garwood.

Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship also reveals the diversity of media and processes in the practices of the artists spanning watercolours, woodcuts, lithographs, book jackets and illustrations, patterned papers, ceramics and wallpaper and fabric design. The exhibition will include many

significant but never previously shown works as well as *HMS Actaeon*, 1942, a recently discovered painting by Eric Ravilious.

Towner Art Gallery holds one of the largest public collections of works by Eric Ravilious in the country, with a selection of his finest watercolours, prints and ceramics including many paintings of his beloved Sussex landscape.

For further information, images and interview requests about the exhibition, please contact Janette Scott Arts PR on janettescottartspr@gmail.com or +44(0)7966 486156.

For more information about the book, please contact Kate Cooper, Head of Publicity at Thames & Hudson on k.cooper@thameshudson.co.uk

Notes To Editors

Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship, 27 May – 17 September 2017. Tickets £8/£7 members & concessions. Towner Art Gallery, Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne BN21 4JJ. Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00am – 5:00pm and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Admission to the rest of the gallery is free. Please note that Towner's Ravilious Room will not be open during the exhibition. **www.townereastbourne.org.uk**

Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship by Andy Friend, with an introduction by Alan Powers is published by Thames & Hudson. Extensively illustrated and featuring a wealth of newly discovered material, the book is published on 20th April 2017, £24.95 hardback. **www.thamesandhudson.com**

Eric William Ravilious (22 July 1903 – 2 September 1942) was an English painter, designer, book illustrator and wood engraver. He studied at Eastbourne School of Art, and at the Royal College of Art, where he studied under Paul Nash. He married Eileen Lucy "Tirzah" Garwood who was also a noted artist and engraver. His early works depicted the countryside around him in the south east of England, as well as urban scenes of London. Many of his works are seen as capturing a sense of Englishness that existed between the wars. He designed a number of popular pieces for Wedgwood between 1936 and 1940 including a commemorative mug originally produced for the Coronation of Edward VIII which was adapted for that of George V. Ravilious was an official war artist in World War II and received a commission as a Captain in the Royal Marines.

Ravilious was killed in 1942 at the age of 39 while accompanying a Royal Air Force air sea rescue mission off Iceland that failed to return to its base. **www.ericravilious.co.uk**

Towner Art Gallery is an award-winning gallery set in Eastbourne presenting major exhibitions of contemporary and historic visual art, as well as displays from the internationally renowned 4500-strong Towner Collection. The Collection is best known for its modern British art – including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) - and a growing collection of international contemporary art. Towner delivers a dynamic associated public programme and learning offer and welcomes more than 120,000 visitors each year, with a strong commitment to inclusive practice and accessibility. On 1 July 2014, Towner became an independent charitable Trust, supported by a Board of Trustees, chaired by David Dimbleby. Towner is supported by Eastbourne Borough Council and Arts Council England through its National Portfolio Programme. **www.townereastbourne.org.uk**