



Appeal for objects and information for Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum's 'Camouflage' exhibition

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum will be holding an exhibition '*The Art of Deception: The work of the Leamington camouflage group in the Second World War*' throughout July – October 2016.

A section of the Civil Defence Camouflage Establishment was based in Leamington Spa from 1939 to 1944, where it employed a large number of distinguished artists and designers of the mid-twentieth century, including Robin Darwin, Stephen Bone, Christopher Ironside, Leon Underwood and Colin Moss. Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum hold works by these artists within their permanent collection.

This exhibition will provide an account of the complex tasks of aerial surveillance, design, testing and production of camouflage undertaken by the Establishment and the smaller naval camouflage unit that was also based in Leamington. It will also look at the importance of camouflage work for the artists and designers involved and how it expanded their understanding of materials and gave them experience in collaborative activities. The project aims to demonstrate the relationship between civil defence, design, propaganda and art during the Second World War.

Study for this project began in September 2014 by research Curator, Alice Swatton, and is funded by the Paul Mellon Centre. Alice is particularly interested in gathering biographical details of those involved in the Camouflage Establishment, and the Artists International Association (AIA) including the Artists and Designer's group based in Warwickshire. Artists including Dorothy and Trevor Tennant worked on numerous public commissions in hotels, schools and canteens.

If anyone has any further information or memories related to camouflage or to the murals painted in Leamington Spa we would be extremely interested to hear more. Also if you have appropriate objects, images or information that you would be willing to lend to this exhibition, please contact Alice Swatton by calling 01926 742706 or by email at alice.swatton@warwickdc.gov.uk.

ENDS

Further information and images:

- Alice Swatton, Curator (alice.swatton@warwickdc.gov.uk) 01926 742706

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Royal Pump Rooms . The Parade . Leamington Spa . CV32 4AA . Tel: 01926 742700 . Email: prooms@warwickdc.gov.uk . www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms
Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 8pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays) Admission Free.





LEAMINGTON SPA
Art Gallery & Museum

- Amy Alsop, Publicity Officer (amy.alsop@warwickdc.gov.uk) 01926 742709

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