

Rhythm & Reaction

The Age of Jazz in Britain

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 27th January - Sunday 22nd April 2018

Private View: Thursday 25th January 2018

Friends and Members Private View: Friday 26th January 2018

Exhibition Opening Times: Monday, Thursday - Saturday: 10am - 4:30pm

Wednesday Late: 10am - 9pm, Sunday: 11am - 4:30pm, Closed on Tuesday, Closed Easter Sunday

Two Temple Place, London WC2R 3BD www.twotempleplace.org

#RhythmAndReaction #AgeOfJazz

Marking 100 years since Jazz reached Britain, Two Temple Place will reopen to the public on 27th January 2018, with its seventh annual Winter Exhibition, ***Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain***. Produced in partnership with The Arts Society, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, this major exhibition will bring together painting, prints, cartoons, textiles and ceramics, moving film, instruments and the all-important jazz sound to explicitly examine the influence of jazz on British art, design and wider society.

Jazz provoked reactions ranging from devotion to abhorrence when the idea and then the sound of the music first entered the consciousness of the British public in the aftermath of the First World War. Visiting American groups such as the Original Dixieland Jazz Band and the Southern Syncopated Orchestra offered Britons their first chance to experience the music live. ***Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain*** will highlight how the new jazz sound in post-War nightclubs and dancehalls provided exciting and dynamic material for British artists. Bold depictions of lively dancers by William Roberts and Frank Dobson, will be displayed alongside the Harlem-inspired paintings for which Edward Burra, one of Britain's foremost Modernist painters, was well-known.

The growing interest in jazz brought black and white musicians, artists and audiences together, and was crucial in influencing changes in British society; moving from stereotypes descended from the minstrel show to a more nuanced understanding of and interest in African American and black British culture.

New technology enabled the dissemination of jazz in popular culture, bringing it within easy reach of the general public with theatre, film, radio, and records. Through newspapers and magazines, like *Melody Maker*, *Rhythm* and *Tune Times*, ***Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz***

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in Britain will show how publications not only distributed jazz but provided a space for visual artists to experiment with its aesthetic in print.

Advances in commercial reproduction gave the domestic market access to the jazz-influenced contemporary designs in textiles and ceramics. Just as radio and records were bringing jazz into the private realm, examples of Carlton Ware and Clarice Cliff ceramics and Arthur Sanderson textiles will demonstrate how the cultural response to jazz allowed Britons to encounter both the look and the sound of jazz at home.

“This exhibition tells the story of the ever-popular jazz age in new ways, focussing on British depictions of jazz to understand what the music meant to artists, assessing the resultant image of jazz in the public sphere as well as considering how jazz was encountered in everyday, domestic environments. Above all, the exhibition links the music with the aesthetics of art produced in response to it, uniquely foregrounding the impact of jazz music on ‘jazz age’ art.”

Catherine Tackley

Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain is produced by the Bulldog Trust in partnership with The Arts Society and draws on the richness of regional public collections including The National Jazz Archive; The Higgins Bedford; Leeds Art Gallery; Town Hall Museum and Art Gallery, Newark; and Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford.

EDITORS' NOTES: ***Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain*** is curated by Catherine Tackley, Head and Professor of Music at the University of Liverpool.

Two Temple Place, a magnificent neo-Gothic mansion on London's Victoria Embankment, is owned and run by the charity the Bulldog Trust. Its Winter Exhibition Programme supports regional museums across the UK, highlighting great collections through annual free exhibitions. The Programme is supported by public funding through Arts Council England.

The Arts Society is a leading arts education charity with a global network of 385 local Societies, which bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. Their events provide welcoming places – locally, nationally and globally for everyone to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge about the arts.

With 90,000+ members who contribute to and preserve our artistic heritage through volunteering and grants, The Arts Society works to create a better, healthier and more connected society.

“The belief that the arts have the potential to enrich peoples’ lives is at the heart of everything we do. This upcoming exhibition powerfully conveys how the riotous syncopated music of the jazz era grabbed the national imagination and permeated many areas of the visual arts, from music and performance through to fashion and literature. With its pace and vibrancy, jazz became one of the most distinctive cultural legacies of the period which continues to evolve today.”

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The Arts Society looks forward to welcoming visitors to this exciting exhibition and introducing more people to our work.”

Florian Schweizer, Chief Executive, The Arts Society

Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain will be accompanied by a varied programme of cultural events for both children and adults including our usual Wednesday Late openings until 9pm.

Two Temple Place also continues to offer its popular free literacy workshops for KS2 pupils from state London Primary Schools.

On 12 November 2017, Two Temple Place will open to the public for ‘Jazz Before Jazz: The Pre-History of Jazz’, a special day of talks, interactive workshops and performances presented by exhibition partner The Arts Society and Kansas Smitty’s.

For further press information please contact:

ALICE EVANS

Rees & Company

E: alice@reesandco.com

T: +44 (0)203 137 8776

For further exhibition information please contact:

REBECCA HONE

Exhibition Coordinator, Two Temple Place

E: rebecca@twotempleplace.org

T: +44 (0) 207 836 3715

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