

The Whitechapel Boys

A group of significant artists and writers emerged from the Jewish diaspora in east London at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The Whitechapel Boys were a diverse group of artists who shared an interest in the arts, a common social background and friendship. Children of Jewish immigrants, they met in east London and used the Whitechapel Library as their gathering place. Their discussions and artworks contributed to the founding of British Modernism.

Their work was frequently presented at the Whitechapel Gallery, most notably in the exhibition *Twentieth Century Art: a Review of Modern Movements* (1914).

Bomberg, Epstein, Gertler, Kramer, Meninsky, C. Winsten and Wolmark experimented with dynamic forms and use of colour and explored the transition from figuration to abstraction while Leftwich, Rodker, Rosenberg, and S. Winsten voiced their philosophical and political views with innovative prose and revealing writings. They attempted to respond to the political situation of Europe and pressing questions around Jewish identity through a progressive rejection of academicism.

This exhibition presents studies and preparatory sketches alongside a number of more familiar works, produced in the period prior to and after World War I; these are presented alongside historic material from the Whitechapel Gallery Archive.

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