

Large Print Exhibition Guide

Christen Sveaas Art

Foundation:

This is the Night Mail:

Selected by Ida Ekblad

27 August 2021 – 2 January

2022



Gallery 7

Exhibition Guide

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This is the Night Mail

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This is the night mail crossing the Border,
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
The shop at the corner, the girl next door.
... Letters of thanks, letters from banks,
Letters of joy from girl and boy,
Receipted bills and invitations ...

This is the Night Mail is the first line of W.H. Auden's 1936 poem describing a train crossing a sleeping Britain as it carries the nation's mail. It featured in a film commissioned by the Post Office with a soundtrack by composer Benjamin Britten. The poem has inspired Norwegian artist Ida Ekblad (b. 1980) in her selection of works from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation.

Ekblad is renowned for her polychromatic, gestural paintings that can expand into immersive environments. Coming from the land of both the longest and the shortest night, she shares with the artists featured here a fascination with the nocturne. Ekblad explores how moonlit interiors, land and seascapes frame dreams, dramas and transgressions. She includes 19th century and 20th century masterpieces by Norwegian artists from abstract planetary compositions by Anna-Eva Bergman and disturbing fantasies by Theodor Kittelsen to psychologically-charged nightscapes by Edvard Munch and romantic nocturnes by Harald Sohlberg. Imagining the display as three train compartments, Ekblad juxtaposes these modern masters with contemporary artists whose works also explore the romantic encounters, bad behaviour and fantasies sanctioned by the darkness. The display also includes beautifully-crafted antique silver and glass objects

redolent of intoxication and pleasure and vessels containing wine – or sleeping draughts.

Also including Nikolai Astrup, Lynda Benglis, Andreas Bloch, Louise Bourgeois, Sophie Calle, Giorgio de Chirico, Johan Christian Dahl, Garde Eide Einarsson, Arne Ekeland, Theaster Gates, Isa Genzken, Vilhelm Hammershøi, Thorvald Hellesen, Howard Hodgkin, Rebecca Horn, Ludvig Karsten, Martin Kippenberger, Edvarda Klaudine Lie, Christian Krohg, Per Krohg, Ilya Kabakov, Albert Oehlen, Paulina Olowska, Steven Parrino, Sigmar Polke, Ed Ruscha, Christian Schad, Adolph Tidemand, Rosemarie Trockel, Francesca Woodman.

This display is accompanied by a fully-illustrated publication, *This is the Night Mail*, available from the bookshop.

Christen Sveaas Art Foundation

Continuing the Whitechapel Gallery's programme of presenting international collections rarely seen in the UK, this display is drawn from the renowned collection of the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation.

Christen Sveaas is a Norwegian businessman, collector and philanthropist who has collected art and antique silver for more than 40 years. He began his art collection with late 19th century and early 20th century Norwegian artists including Johan Christian Dahl, Edvard Munch and Harald Sohlberg.

The collection's focus is primarily painting with some sculpture and photography and is made up of more than 2000 works of art by over 300 artists. In 1996 Christen Sveaas founded the Kistefos Museum on the grounds of his grandfather Anders Sveaas' old wood pulp mill at Jevnaker, north of Oslo. The museum has one of the most important sculpture parks in Europe,

an industrial museum and two exhibition spaces for contemporary art. In 2019 Christen Sveaas established the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation which the following year received some 800 works of art from his personal collection to be made available to Norwegian and international museums.

From August 2021 to January 2023, the Whitechapel Gallery is presenting a series of exhibitions, each conceived by an artist whose work is held in the collection.

List of Works

1 Theodor Kittelsen 'Skogtroll (Forest Troll)', 1905 Oil on canvas

2 Theodor Kittelsen 'Troll på flya (The Ash Lad and the Troll)', 1910 Watercolour

3 Theodor Kittelsen 'Stortrollet i Breifonna (The Big Troll in Breifonna)', 1892 Pen on paper

4 Harald Sohlberg 'Vinternatt i fjellene (Winter Night in the Mountains)', 1911 Watercolor on paper

5 Anna-Eva Bergman 'Trait d'argent LL (Silver Line LL)', 1986, Oil on canvas

6 Isa Genzken 'Schauspieler II', 4, 2014 3 parts, mixed media, child mannequin on glass stand, star t-shirt, blue glasses, swimming shoes, yellow, blue, red rain jacket, skull and crossbones necklace, spray paint, child mannequin on glass stand, striped shirt, white sneakers,

- 7 Martin Kippenberger 'Nachttisch (Night Table)',**
1985 Oil on canvas
- 8 Steven Parrino 'Death in America # 5',** 2003 acrylic
and gesso on canvas
- 9 Anna-Eva Bergman 'Deux Barques Bleues (Two Blue
Boats)',** 1970 Oil and metal foil on plate
- 10 Steven Parrino 'Blue Idiot',** 1986 Acrylic and
enamel on canvas
- 11 Anna-Eva Bergman 'No 21-1977 Planète et terre
(No 21-1977 Planet and Earth)',** 1977 Acrylic and
metal foil on canvas
- 12 Ilya Kabakov 'The Window into My Past',** 2012 Oil
on canvas
- 13 Edvard Munch 'Gutt fra Warnemünde (Boy from
Warnemünde)',** 1907 Oil on canvas

14 Harald Sohlberg 'Andante', 1908 Oil on canvas
glued to wooden board

15 Harald Sohlberg 'Badehus (Bathhouse)', 1894 Oil
on plate (laser technique)

16 Edvard Munch 'Kristian August gate i regnvær
(Autumn Rain)', 1892

17 Paulina Olowska 'A la Galcante', 2015 Oil on Canvas
with collage elements

18 Christian Krohg 'Kvinne som tenner en sigarett
(Woman Lighting a Cigarette)', 1912 Oil on canvas

19 Anna-Eva Bergman 'Planete Argent (Silver Planet)',
1973 Oil and silver leaf on plate

20 Louise Bourgeois 'Torso (Self Portrait)', 1963–1964
White marble sculpture on artist's wooden base

21 Louise Bourgeois 'Blue is the colour of your eyes!',
2008 Gouache and pencil on paper

22 Ludvig Karsten 'Hallen på Staur (The Hall at Staur)',
1924 Oil on canvas

23 Edward Rusha 'Pain Killers, Tranquilizers, Olive',
1969 Oil on canvas

24 Lynda Benglis 'Indian Paint One', 2015 Handmade
paper over chicken wire, coal tempera, acrylic

25 Howard Hodgkin 'Night', 2011–2012 Oil on wood

26 Sophie Calle 'The Eagle', 1991 One colour
photograph and one text

27 Albert Oehlen 'Der Rindenmann', 1986 Oil, gloss,
name-plates on canvas

28 Sigmar Polke 'Totenkopf (Quecksilberkosmetik)',
1974 Dispersion on linex

29 Edvarda Klaudine Lie 'Pike med blomster (Girl with
Flowers)', 1937 Oil on canvas

30 Giorgio de Chirico 'Ettore e Andromaca', 1959 Oil on canvas

31 Vilhelm Hammershøi 'Interiør med marmornisje (Interior with Marble Niche)', 1914 Oil on canvas

32 Rebecca Horn 'Passing the Moon of Evidence I', 2017 Steel, glass, butterflies, branch, gold leaf, glass surface 2 circles, brass, motor, electronic device

33 Paulina Olowska 'Seductress', 2020 Acrylic and oil on canvas

34 Christian Schad Tyskland 'Portrait de femme de profil', 1935 Oil on canvas

35 Francesca Woodman 'Untitled, Providence, Rhode Island', 1975–1978 Estate gelatin print

36 Christian Krohg 'Albertine i politilegens venteværelsem (Albertine in the police doctor's waiting room)', 1885 Oil on canvas

37 Christian Krohg 'Albertine får en formaning (Albertine receives an admonition)', 1884 Oil on canvas

38 Nikolai Astrup 'St. Hansbål (Midsummer Bonfire)', 1908–1926 Oil on canvas

39 Arne Ekeland 'Utørret bekk (Dry stream)', 1939 Oil on canvas

40 Edvard Munch 'Fra Nordstrand (From Nordstrand)', 1892 Oil on canvas

41 Adolph Tidemand 'Lystringen (Night Fishing)', 1849 Oil on canvas

42 Harald Sohlberg 'Graaveir (Grey Weather)', 1898 Oil on canvas

43 Christian Krohg 'Mann over bord (Man overboard)',

c.1905 Oil on canvas

44 Nikolai Astrup 'Vårnatt ved fullmåne (Spring

evening at full moon)', 1905–1910 Oil on canvas

45 Thorvald Hellesten 'Komposisjon (Composition)',

1916 Oil on canvas

46 Thorvald Hellesten 'Komposisjon (Composition)',

1915 Oil on canvas

47 Thorvald Hellesten 'Kubistisk Komposisjon (Cubist

Composition)', 1916 Oil on canvas'

48 Theodor Kittelsen 'Ordsprog', 1898 Colour printing

on paper

49 Rosemarie Trockel 'Creature of Habit 1 (Drunken

Dog)', 1990 Bronze

50 Johan Christian Dahl 'Dresden im Mondlicht, 1823

Oil on canvas

51 Andreas Bloch 'Mann med hjelm og liten gutt til hest (Man with helmet and young boy on horseback)', 1890–1910 Oil on veneer

52 Per Krohg 'Natt (Night)', 1916 Oil on canvas

53 Johan Christian Dahl 'Bergfossen ved Tinn (Waterfall near Tinn)', 1831 Oil on canvas

54 Johan Christian Dahl 'Akerhus festning (Akershus Fortress)', 1830 Oil on paper

55 Theodor Kittelsen 'Har dyrene sjæl (Do Animals have Souls)', 1893 Colour printing on paper

56 Gardar Eide Einarsson 'Tarp (Black 2)', 2014 Acrylic, graphite and silkscreen ink on canvas/
Wooden stretcher

57 Theaster Gates 'Migration Rickshaw for Sleeping, Building and Playing', 2013 Wood, fabric, Huguenot House wallpaper and wheel

58 Antique silver and glass objects Sixteenth –
nineteenth century Schloss Records Tablecloth
designed by Ida Ekblad

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