



PRESS RELEASE

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A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt

A new exhibition at the Museum of Somerset

The life and works of a remarkable Somerset artist, with a revolutionary spirit, are being celebrated in a new exhibition opening at the Museum of Somerset in March.

The 20th century artist Doris Hatt (1890–1969) was a Somerset pioneer of British modernism. She exhibited her vibrant works over almost five decades, beginning in 1920, and contributed to many exhibitions in the South West.

Sam Astill, Principal Museums Officer at the South West Heritage Trust, said: “Doris Hatt was a woman ahead of her time – a feminist and socialist whose remarkable life and artistic achievements have remained surprisingly little known.”

Doris’s painting style developed over time as she absorbed the major influences of 20th-century modernism, including cubism, purism, abstraction and the works of Cézanne, Picasso, Braque, Dufy and Léger. Her work includes portraiture, still lifes and landscapes. Clevedon, Watchet, East Quantoxhead and Wedmore are among the recognisable South West landscapes depicted in her art.

The South West Heritage Trust is a charity supported by Somerset and Devon County Councils and other generous funders

South West Heritage Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England.
Registered office: Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6SF
Company number: 09053532 Charity Number: 1158791 VAT Registration Number: 197221592

Doris's modernist approach extended beyond her work as an artist. She designed her own Art Deco/Bauhaus style home in Clevedon where she lived with her partner Margery Mack Smith, a school teacher and weaver. It became a meeting place for radical activity in both the arts and politics. As a member of the Communist Party Doris twice stood unsuccessfully for local election.

Co-curator Denys Wilcox from The Court Gallery added: "For 50 years Doris was an acknowledged but under-appreciated artist. We look forward to this exhibition bringing Doris Hatt the wider recognition she so richly deserves."

The exhibition 'A Life in Colour: the Art of Doris Hatt' is being produced in association with the Court Gallery. It will be open at the Museum of Somerset, Taunton, from 16 March to 29 June.

The Museum of Somerset is part of the South West Heritage Trust, an independent charity that protects and celebrates Somerset and Devon's rich heritage.

Visit museumofsomerset.org.uk

#dorishattcolour

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For further information please contact Beth Jerrett, PR & Communications Lead Officer,
beth.jerrett@swheritage.org.uk or 01823 347418.

SHORT VERSION FOR LISTINGS:

A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt

The Museum of Somerset, Taunton, TA1 4AA

16 March to 29 June

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An exhibition of works by the 20th century artist Doris Hatt (1890–1969), a Somerset pioneer of British modernism, who exhibited her vibrant paintings of South West landscapes, portraiture and still lifes over almost five decades.

Charge: Pay what you think.

www.museumofsomerset.org.uk

Image/s: *Photographs are granted for one time use in conjunction with this press release only, and photographers must be credited.*

Photo Captions:

1. Doris Hatt
2. Watchet in West Somerset

Notes to editors

1. The South West Heritage Trust

The South West Heritage Trust is an independent charity committed to protecting and celebrating Somerset and Devon's rich heritage. As well as the widely-praised Museum of Somerset and the redeveloped Somerset Rural Life Museum, in Glastonbury, the Trust manages state-of-the-art facilities in Taunton and Exeter to care for the extraordinary archive collections of the two counties. The Trust also provides essential advice about the historic environment and manages historic sites. Individuals and businesses are invited to support the charity through its Supporters' scheme. Visit swheritage.org.uk

2. The Court Gallery

Exhibition Organisers, Publishers and Fine Art Dealers specialising in 20th Century British and European Art. Dr Denys Wilcox is an art historian and author of a number of books about 20th Century Art and Artists. www.courtgallery.com

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3. Accompanying Books

Doris Hatt: Revolutionary Artist

by Adrian Webb, Christopher Stone, Denys J. Wilcox and Stephen Lisney

Published by South West Heritage Trust in association with The Court Gallery, 2019

ISBN 978-0-9573802-6-4

Softback

The Art of Doris Hatt

by Denys J. Wilcox

Published by South West Heritage Trust in association with The Court Gallery, 2019

ISBN 978-0-9573802-7-1

Hardback

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