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PRESS RELEASE

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14 March 2019

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

Tuesday 19 March at 1.15 pm - Students from Danesfield Middle School in Williton are visiting the Museum of Somerset and studying the paintings on display in 'A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt.'

Students from Danesfield Middle School are opening their own exhibition of modernist art at the Museum of Somerset. They are taking inspiration from works on display in 'A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt'. The project is made possible through the Department for Education funded programme 'Museums and Schools', administered by Arts Council England.

The Museum opened its spring exhibition on 16 March celebrating the life and work of the 20th-century modernist artist Doris Hatt (1890–1969). Working with Contains Art and local artist Lyn Mowat, students from Danesfield Middle School are taking part in art workshops to create prints based on these works. An exhibition of their work opens in the Museum's Hammet Room on Saturday 6 April.

Cat Smith from Contains Art said: "We are very excited to be collaborating with the Museum and Danesfield Middle School on this project. Doris Hatt made several artworks about the small harbour town of Watchet, close to where the students are based. She even planned to move there."

Lyn Mowat said: "During our visit to the exhibition we will make drawings in charcoal and chalk which will provide the basis for the monoprinting workshops. Monoprinting is a

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method of creativity that allows scope for free thinking and this would have been greatly approved of by Doris.”

Doris and her partner Margery Mack Smith were passionate about education. They offered free painting and drawing classes for children at their home, Littlemead, in Clevedon. Margery was a primary school teacher and from 1914 onwards she worked at various schools in Bristol. She was awarded the Teacher Artist certificate of the Royal Drawing Society. Margery was also a weaver and taught children how to do some simple weaving.

‘A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt’ and the associated display of artworks by students from Danesfield Middle School is open until 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.

For more information visit www.museumofsomerset.org.uk or call 01823 255088.

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

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. Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the

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arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

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