



PRESS RELEASE

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10 April 2019

Clevedon Artist Celebrated by Local Authors

‘Doris Hatt: Revolutionary Artist’

A group of local authors have come together to celebrate the life and works of a remarkable Clevedon artist. Doris Hatt (1890–1969) was a Somerset pioneer of British modernism, and her art is the subject of a major retrospective currently on at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton.

To complement the exhibition, Clevedon residents Stephen Lisney, Adrian Webb and Christopher Stone have produced a publication ‘Doris Hatt: Revolutionary Artist.’ Doris was a member of both the Clevedon and Clifton Art Clubs, exhibiting with them over many years. She was also a woman ahead of her time – a feminist and socialist whose remarkable life and work have remained surprisingly little known.

Stephen Lisney, a member of the Clevedon Art Club, said: “In this book we hope to give some insights into her art, and into her life in Clevedon and the South West with her partner Margery Mack Smith.”

Doris’s modernist approach extended beyond her work as an artist. In 1939 she completed one of her proudest achievements, the building of Littlemead – her home in Clevedon – an Art Deco/Bauhaus inspired house.

Doris and Margery were known locally for their radical politics. In 1946 and 1947 Doris stood unsuccessfully as a Communist Party candidate for Clevedon Urban District Council. Doris was also known to go around the local pubs trying to sell *The Daily Worker*.

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The exhibition 'A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt' (open until 29 June) has been produced in association with The Court Gallery. Gallery owner Denys J. Wilcox has also co-authored the book.

'Doris Hatt: Revolutionary Artist' is on sale now at Clevedon Community Bookshop, Copse Road; Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Road and STORE for the Curious, 19 Alexandra Road in Clevedon.

The proceeds from the book are being shared between the South West Heritage Trust and STAR – Somerset Trust for Arts & Recreation. STAR is a Somerset charity that provides opportunities for children and young people to build and develop resilience through taking part in music, sport, art and recreational activities.

Upcoming Event: A Life in Colour – Panel Discussion

At the Museum of Somerset, 2 May 7.30 pm (booking required)

Discover what it was like for a female artist in the early 20th century. Join Carolyn Trant author of the forthcoming Thames & Hudson publication 'Voyaging Out: Women Artists in Britain from the Suffragettes to the Sixties' and exhibition co-curators Stephen Lisney and Denys J. Wilcox.

Visit museumofsomerset.org.uk

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

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

Photo Captions:

1. Pictured is Denys J. Wilcox owner of the Court Gallery, Christopher Stone, Adrian Webb and Stephen Lisney – together they have authored the book 'Doris Hatt: Revolutionary Artist.'
1. Clevedon Bandstand, 1954, courtesy of Private Collection

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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. 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

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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