

RWA

Curated by Arts Society accredited lecturer
James Russell

In Relation: Nine Couples who transformed Modern British Art

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Modern British Art is unusually rich in artist couples, chiefly because the 20th century saw women attending art school and practising as artists in increasing numbers. Covering a period from around 1890 to the present, *In Relation* will present the work of nine such *Dame Laura Knight with model, Ella Louis* couples, allowing visitors to see how artists in this situation inspire and influence one another.



Different aspects of each couples' work has also been chosen in order to navigate the idea of intimacy and influence throughout the exhibition's narrative.

With Laura and Harold Knight the emphasis is on portraiture. In the case of Dod and Ernest Procter we will concentrate on the sensuous figure paintings of the 1920s, while Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant are represented by exquisite still life paintings, interiors and portraits. Examples of their collaborative design work will also be included, as will block-printed textiles by the designers Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher.

Moving ahead into the early 1930s Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson were a revolutionary force; and we will include examples of their pioneering abstract work. With Eric Ravilious and Tirzah Garwood, meanwhile, we will show both wood engravings and paintings, teasing out shared interests and technique.

Finally, our survey concludes with Mary Fedden and Julian Trevelyan, two artists whose careers were fascinatingly entwined. We will look particularly at the period early in their marriage, when Fedden's painting came under Trevelyan's influence, to emerge transformed.