

British Museum to display newly acquired gift of modern and contemporary art

Press images: <https://tinyurl.com/4tnvcjc8>

A selection of around 100 modern and contemporary works on paper from a significant gift will go on display at the British Museum in September 2022. The works are part of a larger group donated by the London-based art collector Hamish Parker, a long-term supporter of the Museum. Titled *Art on paper since 1960: the Hamish Parker collection*, the selection will be on display in **Gallery 90** from 22 September 2022 until 5 March 2023.

Hamish Parker's gift, primarily comprising prints and drawings made after 1960, was accepted under the Cultural Gifts Scheme by HM Government and allocated to the British Museum in 2020. In total, it includes around 150 works of art made up of 274 individual prints and drawings, all previously in Hamish Parker's personal collection. This donation is the latest of several significant gifts that Parker has made to the Museum, which began with the funds to purchase Picasso's entire *Vollard Suite* of 100 etchings in 2011.

The exhibition celebrates the generosity of Hamish Parker's gift and demonstrate the strength and range of the Museum's modern and contemporary collection of graphic art. It also showcases the diversity of art on paper and provides visitors with an opportunity to see work by some of the leading artists around the world who have been making prints and drawings since 1960.

The selection of works is dominated by art made in Britain, the USA and Germany, but also includes work by artists from Japan, Pakistan, France, Ireland and elsewhere. Key names include Lucian Freud (British, 1922–2011), Avigdor Arikha (French-Israeli, 1929–2010), Louise Bourgeois (American, 1911–2010), Richard Serra (American, b.1938), Blinky Palermo (German, 1943–1977), Imran Qureshi (Pakistani, b.1970) and Alice Maher (Irish, b. 1956).

The exhibition will include two 'artist in focus' sections, the first of which features a group of prints and drawings by the American artist Carroll Dunham (b.1949), who made his name as a painter in New York City. The group of works by Dunham spans the period 1982 to 2006 and reflects the artist's move from abstraction toward an increasingly representational style. Hamish Parker's gift included eight drawings and 17 prints by Dunham, which together with the British Museum's existing holdings of Dunham's art, forms the largest and more representative group of the artist's graphic work in a UK public collection.

The second 'artist in focus' section comprises drawings by the American conceptual artist Al Taylor (1948-1999) whose art was inspired by everyday objects and phenomena, including tin cans, rat traps and puddles. Hamish Parker has long been a champion of Taylor's work and thanks to this gift of seven drawings and one print, the Museum now holds the largest UK public collection with an outstanding group of 15 works on paper by the artist.

Hamish Parker's gift has had a significant impact on the Museum's collection, strengthening the representation of some of the most important artists from the period including Freud, Kiki Smith (American, b.1954) and Yayoi Kusama (Japanese, b.1929) and adding work by

significant artists who were previously un-represented including James Turrell (American, b.1943), Sylvia Plimack Mangold (American, b.1938) and Tiffany Chung (Vietnamese-American, b.1969).

Catherine Daunt, Hamish Parker Curator of Modern and Contemporary Graphic Art, said: “Hamish Parker’s generosity has considerably enhanced the British Museum’s modern and contemporary collection, as this exhibition shows. From life drawings and portraits to large-scale minimalist prints, the exhibition includes a range of styles and techniques, showcasing the infinite creativity of artists working on paper over the last six decades.



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Further information

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