

# The Society of Wood Engravers

## 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition

**LPW Exhibition Space**

**6<sup>rd</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

We are delighted to be hosting The Society of Wood Engravers' 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition. Featuring work by a variety of artists, including Leonie Bradley, Chris Daunt, Anne Desmet, Angie Lewin, Ian Stephens and Geri Waddington, this extensive exhibition showcases contemporary wood engraving.

Wood engraving is one of the most exquisite forms of relief printmaking. The print is made by engraving the reversed design into the smooth surface of a block of end grain wood often using small tools to allow for plenty of detail. Boxwood is best, though cheaper alternatives such as lemonwood and synthetic materials are now frequently used.

The engraved surface of the block is rolled with ink and printed onto paper. The marks that have been cut into the wood will not print, whilst the remaining inked surface will. Because of its sensitivity of mark making and quality of line, wood engraving produces a particularly rich tonal range, and consequently wood engravings are usually, but by no means exclusively, black and white.

Many prints can be taken from a block once it is engraved, but each print is an original, a product of the process and not a copy. These prints are editioned, which appears as a fraction written at the bottom of the print, near the artist's signature. 10/75 means the 10<sup>th</sup> print in an edition of 75 prints.

The Society of Wood Engravers (TWE) exists to promote wood engraving. It was founded in 1920 by a group of artists that included Philip Haggren, Robert Gibbings, Lucien Pissaro, Gwen Raverat and Eric Gill. The group thrived, holding annual exhibitions that attracted work from other notable artists such as David Jones, John and Paul Nash, Paul Gauguin and Clare Leighton. There are currently 78 elected members, all practicing artists, as well as a wider group of supporting subscribers of artists, collectors and enthusiasts. The regular activities of the Society are its annual touring exhibition, quarterly journal 'Multiples' and monthly newsletter.

The annual exhibition, stringently selected from an open submission, visits several venues each year, showing the best of current work from the UK and the rest of the world. This marks the first time that the show has toured to Leicester Print Workshop. 128 wood engravings, woodcuts and linocuts from the UK and around the world reveal the wide range of effects and interpretations this art form is capable of. Whether traditional or experimental in approach, these prints all have one thing in common, an astonishing level of skill and intensity, distilled into exquisitely rendered images.

## **LEARN WOOD ENGRAVING at Leicester Print Workshop**

### **Wood Engraving Three Day Course**

Saturday 27th May - Monday 29th May, 10am - 4pm, £175 (£157.50 concessions)

### **Japanese Woodblock Evening Course**

Tuesday 6th June - Tuesday 27th June, 6pm - 9pm, £125 (£112.50 concessions)

To book please email [courses@leicesterprintworkshop.com](mailto:courses@leicesterprintworkshop.com) or talk to a member of the LPW Team.

## **EXHIBITION EVENTS**

### **Private View of the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the Society of Wood Engravers and a guided tour of Leicester Print Workshop. Monday 5th June, 2pm – 4.30pm.**

This event will include a talk by Geri Waddington, President of the Society of Wood Engravers about the process of wood engraving, and a tour of the exhibition. In addition Sarah Kirby from the Leicester Print Workshop will give a tour of the studio and a brief demonstration of a relief printmaking technique. £15 per person.

To book please email [info@leicesterprintworkshop.com](mailto:info@leicesterprintworkshop.com) or speak to someone from the LPW team.

### **Kibworth Book Fest Reception & Pop Up Book Stall, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 4.30pm – 6pm**

Join us for a drink and a viewing of the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the Society of Wood Engravers and a pop-up book stall showcasing books that celebrate art and printmaking.

This event is free of charge, please come along.