

PRESS RELEASE

VETERAN JEWISH ARTIST DONATES 'SUN' TO BEN URI GALLERY

NB: editors - Pic and caption to follow

The veteran Glasgow Jewish artist, Hannah Frank, has donated one of her exquisite black and white drawings to the Ben Uri Gallery, The London Jewish Museum of Art.

Sun, from 1943, was included in the Ben Uri's Recent Acquisitions, 2001-2006, exhibition which opened on 6 December and runs until 31 December 2006. The picture now takes its rightful place alongside works by Joseph Herman, Clara Klinghoffer, Anna Ticho, Frank Auerbach and David Bomberg.

Hannah Frank, now 98, is the last living link to the Scottish Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts movement. She studied at Glasgow University at a time when it was unusual for Jewish girls to do so, and was a regular evening class attendee at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) from 1927 through to the 1960s. Many of her distinctive black and white drawings feature elongated figures and structures and, in the years leading up to the Second World War she produced dark, haunting images, such as *Flight* from 1939. However, during the 1940s, after her marriage to Lionel Levy, Hannah's drawings became whiter, brighter and happier. *Sun* is among this group.

The drawing features a strange-shaped female/androgynous figure raising its face to the sun. The artist's trademarks feature in the picture too: the double-leaved tree, and soaring birds. The carpet of flowers, with its painstaking detail, the leaves, and the sun's rays also mark out this work as unmistakably Hannah Frank, despite the differences between this and her early work.

Hannah Frank exhibited at the Royal Glasgow Institute (RGI), annually from 1928, and 'Sun' appeared in the RGI annual exhibition in 1945. She has recently had her first solo London exhibition, at Ivy House, The London Jewish Cultural Centre, North End Road, Golders Green. At the end of this exhibition, which comes to an end on Friday 15 December, the works will travel to Boston USA, where they will be on show at the Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University from January 19th to April 6th.

The *Sun* gift means that the Ben Uri Gallery, whose Art Society was established in 1915, and so is nearly as old as Hannah herself, will join several galleries in Scotland and around England who hold examples of her work.

- Ben Uri London Museum of Jewish Art, 108A Boundary Road, London NW8 ORH. Phone: 020 7604 3991. Open: Monday - Friday

10am - 5.30pm; Sunday 12pm - 4pm. Closed Saturday. Website:
www.benuri.org.uk

- Hannah Frank website: www.hannahfrank.org.uk

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Notes to editors

Images and further information available from the website
<http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>

High resolution pics are available as are photo opportunities with Hannah Frank (in Glasgow) and further information/interviews from:

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