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## PRESS RELEASE

3 October 2019

### Ivon Hitchens Exhibition Opening at Lakeside Arts, Nottingham

#### Ivon Hitchens: Space Through Colour

Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham

2 November 2019 – 23 February 2020

The Djanogly Gallery at Lakeside Arts is delighted to announce the opening of a major exhibition of one of this country's most admired modern artists, Ivon Hitchens (1893 – 1979), in November 2019.

Including over 50 major paintings as well as studies and sketchbooks, it is the largest exhibition of the artist's work since 1989. It will consider the whole scope of his career, spanning a remarkable six decades from the 1920s to the 1970s, and reappraise his significant contribution to British landscape painting in the last century. Although associated primarily with the landscape of Sussex, it reveals how his work transcended its specific context and earned him a national and international reputation.

#### 1920s and 1930s

In the 1920s and '30s, Hitchens was a progressive artist. He was one of the earliest members of the experimental Seven and Five Society alongside Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Ben and Winifred Nicholson. Hitchens' close friendship with the Nicholsons is reflected in the painting *A Border Day (Morning, Bankshead)* 1925, whilst his friendship with Moore found expression in *Henry Moore at work in his Parkhill Studio* 1929. Hitchens was also profoundly influenced by European artists including: Cézanne, Matisse and Braque. Their impact is recognisable in paintings such as *Spring in Eden* 1925 and *Winter Stage* 1936, the latter a work in which Hitchens' recognisable horizontal format first emerged.

#### 1940s and 1950s

The artist's retreat from London to Sussex at the outset of the Second World War gave rise to an extraordinary body of paintings over the subsequent four decades that were international in spirit despite being rooted in the English landscape. During this time he painted repeatedly at his home near Petworth, and in surrounding locations in the South Downs. By far the greatest part of his work, however, was produced in the six acres of woodland that surrounded his Sussex home at Greenleaves.

Hitchens always remained very aware of developments in modern art both at home and on the continent, but from the 1940s onwards he chose to focus on subject matter very close to hand. This included the landscapes of Sussex as well as flower paintings, interiors and studies of the nude and of his family members.

#### 1960s and 1970s

Spending more time painting from his coastal holiday cottage at Selsey in west Sussex, the last decade of Hitchens' life saw no let up in his experimentation. By this time his works were almost completely abstract, whilst still rooted in the landscape that had provided his subject matter for many years. The paintings are characterised by a much brighter palette of colours and bold brushwork.

0115 846 7777 | [lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)  
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD



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Works such as *Arno II* 1965 and *Red Centre* 1972 exemplify the power and intensity of Hitchens' work in his final years.

The exhibition includes loans from public and private collections across the UK, including Tate, The Hepworth Wakefield, Leeds Art Gallery, Manchester Art Gallery and Museums Sheffield.

*Ivon Hitchens: Space Through Colour* is a partnership between Pallant House Gallery, Chichester (where it was shown earlier this year), and Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts.

For more information, visit [lakesidearts.org.uk/ivonhitchens](http://lakesidearts.org.uk/ivonhitchens)

– ENDS –

#### RELATED EVENTS

**Lecture: Space Through Colour** | Friday 1 November 2019, 6-7pm (followed by preview)  
Anne Goodchild gives an introduction to the exhibition and Hitchens' remarkable sixty-year career. From his early essays in modernism to the late freely painted abstract landscapes, her lecture provides a fresh perspective on Hitchens' art.

**Lecture: Making Paint Sing** | Wednesday 20 November 2019, 6-7pm  
Ivon Hitchens sought in paint to make a song of nature. Dr Michael Tucker considers painting's relation to music through the work of Hitchens and other artists including Kandinsky, Mondrian and Miró.

**Gallery Tours with Peter Khoroché** | Thursday 20 February 2020, 1pm & 3pm  
Peter Khoroché is the recognised authority on Ivon Hitchens and has championed his work in a succession of books and exhibitions.

**Free guided tours of the exhibition will also take place – see the website for dates and times.**

#### LISTINGS INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 2 November 2019 – Sunday 23 February 2020

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 12pm-4pm. Closed Mondays. \*For Christmas opening times, visit the website.

Address: Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Admission: Free

Events: For talks and events tickets please book online or call the Box Office on: 0115 846 7777

Lakeside Arts Website: [www.lakesidearts.org.uk](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk)

Lakeside Arts Facebook: @LakesideArts

Lakeside Arts Twitter: @LakesideArts

Lakeside Arts Instagram: @LakesideArts

Exhibition hashtag: #IvonHitchens

More information is available from Lakeside Arts' Marketing & Communications Manager Mária Konyelicska at [maria.konyelicska@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyelicska@nottingham.ac.uk) or on 0115 748 4155.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

The exhibition is curated by Anne Goodchild and is a partnership between Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, and Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts.

### Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts

The Djanogly Gallery opened in 1992 and it forms part of Lakeside Arts. It stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures, talks and participatory learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *In the Shadow of War* (29 November 2014 – 22 February 2015); *Elisabeth Frink: The Presence of Sculpture* (25 November 2015 – 28 February 2016); *Victor Pasmore: Towards a New Reality* (26 November 2016 – 19 February 2017).

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; the Djanogly Gallery; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology covering a period of some 250,000 years; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

[lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)

## IMAGES

> *Flower Piece* 1943, Ivon Hitchens. Museums Sheffield © The Estate of Ivon Hitchens

*Arno II* 1965, Ivon Hitchens. Private collection © The Estate of Ivon Hitchens

