



Rare Wyndham Lewis drawing from Brian Sewell's private art collection to feature in IWM North retrospective

A rare drawing from the late art critic Brian Sewell's private art collection will feature in the Wyndham Lewis retrospective at IWM North from 23 June.

An Oriental Design (circa 1900-1905) will be displayed in *Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War* (23 June 2017 – 1 January 2018), the largest UK retrospective of the artist and writer's work to date.

The pen drawing, made in the new Rembrandt style of Welsh painter and draughtsman Augustus John, dates from Lewis' time as student at London's Slade School of Art in the early 20th century. It not only differs greatly from Lewis' more familiar Vorticist style but shows his remarkable skill as a draughtsman from a young age.

An Oriental Design will be Lewis' earliest work to feature in the exhibition at IWM North and was part of the formidable art critic Brian Sewell's extensive art collection. It was sold to a private collector at auction in September 2016 after his death in 2015. The drawing will go on UK public display for the first time since 2005.

Marking one hundred years since Lewis (18 November 1882 - 7 March 1957) was first commissioned as an official war artist in 1917, *Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War* will comprise of more than 160 artworks, books, journals and pamphlets from major public and private, national and international collections. Staged in Imperial War Museums' centenary year, *Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War* will be IWM's largest visual arts exhibition to date. The exhibition also marks 60 years since Lewis' death.

Richard Slocombe, Senior Curator at IWM and Curator of *Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War*, said: "*An Oriental Design*, with its small scale and dense cross-hatching, is Lewis' attempt to copy Augustus John's new Rembrandt style. This not only demonstrates his youthful adoration of John but also his clear talent as a draughtsman from a young age before he adapted his trademark Vorticist style. "*An Oriental Design* is a key piece in an exhibition that will shed light on the work of a highly-gifted, original, but often ignored artist and one of most intriguing personalities of the 20th century."

A radical force in British art and literature, Lewis was the founder of Britain's only true *avant-garde* movement, Vorticism. Lewis' life and art encompassed the most violent and chaotic period in human history; from the First World War to the nuclear age. He was a controversial figure whose ideas, opinions and personality inspired, enticed and repelled in equal measure.

– Ends –

IWM North
23 June 2017 – 1 January 2018
Press View: 22 June 2017
Tickets now on sale at iwm.org.uk/north

Adult £8, Child £4, Concessions £6, Members Free. Group booking discounts will apply.

**For further information, including interviews and image requests please contact:
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Notes to Editors

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North brings the national collection to northern audiences. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict, the iconic building, innovative and dynamic exhibitions, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspires and encourages debate.

Open Daily: Last entry 30 minutes before closing (Closed 24 – 26 December). Free Admission.
Summer 2017: 10am – 5pm (April 2017 – November 2017)

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IWM Centenary

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*).



100 YEARS

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country. For more information, visit www.1914.org.



