

## Take a short tour of works by past members of the Reading Guild of Artists at the Reading Museum.

On the lower floor in the People and Places Gallery you can take a closer look at our current RGA Museum Highlight *Demolition, Hosier Street, Reading* by **Leslie E. Windsor**. One of the Reading Guild of Artists longest serving members joining in 1932 until 1989. This work was exhibited at the Reading Guild of Artists 29th Annual Exhibition 1959. We are lucky to have Leslie Windsor's own recollections of this work: 'Walking along Hosier Street towards the town I noticed a street called 'Hope Street'. Most of the buildings in the vicinity had gone. Very old houses towards the end of Hosier Street on the left, with overhanging top rooms, were well on the way to disappearing forever. Making some quick notes I decided to come along the following day, a Sunday, and do more details, especially in colour. It seemed such a wonderful subject, especially as the 'Hope Street' sign was still in position, signifying the hope for a happy future for the area. The picture I made was a fairly large watercolour, with certain features emphasized with collage'.

In the Box room you can find *Bargain Hunters* by **A. Duncan Carse**. A notable figure and decorative painter of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Andreas Duncan Carse joined the RGA in 1931, serving on its Council 1934 - 35, and was made Vice-President in 1937. With his death late in 1938 the RGA was 'robbed of one of its outstanding exhibitors but also of its Vice-President'. *Bargain Hunters* was exhibited at the RGA's Fourth Exhibition in 1933.

On the second floor of the Museum in the Atrium you will find amongst the mosaics from Roman Silchester the modern ceramics of **Alan Caiger-Smith**. However, although best know for his Aldermasten Pottery works, while he was a member of the Reading Guild of Artists, from 1948 – 1982, he mainly exhibited oil paintings at the Annual Exhibitions. Titles included *Night Trains near Paddington, By the River, Yellow House in Snow* and *Cat*. In later years he also played host to the RGA's Summer Painting Days at his home in Brimpton.

In the Windows Gallery take a look at *Head Carved in Limestone* by **Albert C. Carter**. Exhibited at the RGA's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition 1957, Carter was the most long-standing Presidents of the Reading Guild of Artists. A member of the RGA from their very first year in 1930 he became President in 1934, a position he held until his death in 1958. 'A formidable man, whose influence was to be both powerful and sustained'. In 1933 he gave an illustrated lecture 'The Meaning of Sculpture', which he begun by saying that he 'found it very difficult to reconcile so-called modern sculpture with his ideals'. Extolling the virtues of the classical approach he pointed out that 'in great historic periods the best work had been produced by civilisation that was approaching its ideal'.

Also in the Windows Gallery is **Robert Gibbings** *Embracing Couple*. In the book 'The Life and Work of Robert Gibbings' by Martin Andrews (former RGA President and Life member), he says 'In 1940 Gibbings was invited to be a guest 'critic' at the Guild's annual show. He endeared himself to members by being generous in his praise, justifiably so as standards were high' The following year he joined the RGA. 'His membership was to last only one year due to the demands of his writing.' He exhibited three engravings at the Annual Exhibition 1940 *Sweet Thames Run Softly*.

For more information on past members and their works please take a look at our Museum Highlights page of the RGA Website [www.rga-artists.org.uk](http://www.rga-artists.org.uk) or if you have any further information about past members please contact Martina at [webmaster@rga-artists.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@rga-artists.org.uk)

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