

The Friends of Dame Laura Knight Society, Malvern & Colwall Branch

10th May 2018: Society Trip to Cardiff National Museum:



Cardiff National Museum

Vivid memories of Cardiff: (click image(s) to enlarge view)

Blessed by Spring sunshine, a small party of DLK enthusiasts enjoyed a scenic journey en route to Cardiff, where we were able to view some of the rich art collection at the National Museum of Wales.

Though we were particularly interested in British and European art contemporary with the Knights, there was so much more to see.

Much of the modern collection had been given to



View from the Civic gardens



the nation by Gwendoline and Margaret Davies, whose wealth and Calvinistic Methodism motivated them to purchase and donate British and French paintings and sculptures collected between 1908 and 1950s. So we were privileged to see iconic examples from Turner, Millet, Rodin, Cezanne, Monet, Renoir, et al to Augustus and Gwen John, Frank Brangwyn, the Knights and modern Welsh work such as Kyffin Williams. It was a very impressive collection.

Some of the party were given a guided tour of the Galleries by an experienced volunteer, Ann Saer. Though (as with many big galleries now) we were



Ann Saer our guide

disappointed not to meet an actual Curator, nor to be able to visit the Storeroom .

Out of 6 owned by Cardiff we only had the opportunity to view 2 of the Knights' works on display - see images *.



* Dame Laura Knight DBE RA RWS 1877 – 1970
The Cornish Coast

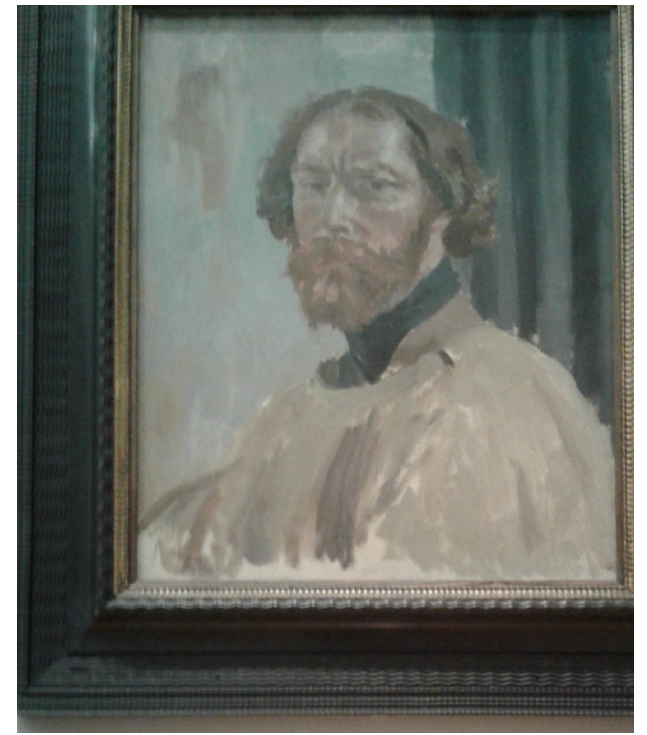


* Harold Knight RA 1874 - 1961
The Green Book

Just by chance David Thorpe, a member of our group, came across a Laura Knight ballet etching hidden away in a Gallery drawer!! - see image below.



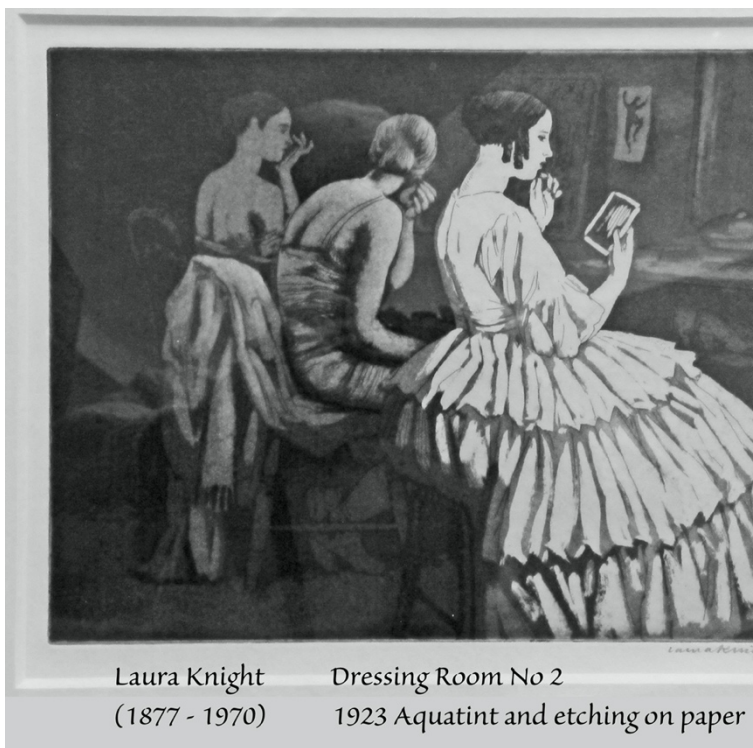
Charles Sims RA 1873 - 1928
The Kite



Frank Brangwyn RA RWS RBA 1867 - 1957
Bacchanal



Edward Lear 1812 - 1888
Kinchinjunga from Darjeeling



Laura Knight (1877 - 1970) Dressing Room No 2
1923 Aquatint and etching on paper



Benjamin Williams Leader RA 1831 - 1923
On the Llugwy below Capel Curig



Frank Brangwyn RA RWS RBA 1867 - 1957
Venice: St Mark's from the Lagoon

For the rest of our visit we spent time in other Rooms discovering a wealth of ceramics, sculpture, silver and modern painting. Welcome respite came in the cafeteria with coffee and bara brith and the museum shop was a source of aesthetic bargains. Later some had time to explore the ambience and retail opportunities of the City whilst others sat 'people watching' in the beautiful civic gardens, enjoying an ice cream.

We were very grateful to Evie Knight for organising such an excellent trip and only sorry she could not be with us because of work.



Auguste Rodin 1840 - 1917
The Kiss

Thanks again go to the driving skills of Ian and the comfort of Commandery Coaches. We had a safe return trip, arriving home with lots to think about just in time for tea!

*Heather Whatley
June 2018*



Edgar Degas 1834 - 1917
Bronze, Nude Little Dancer



last view of the Civic gardens, as we left .



Augustus John OM RA 1878 – 1961
Portrait of a Child

We would like to thank Dick Stockford, Sam Knight, David Thorpe & Mike Avril for copies of their photographs of the day.