

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Mythic Understanding: Inspired by David Jones

Private View: 8 November 2018, 6 – 8pm

Exhibition Runs: 6 November – 14 December 2018



Images: Portrait (unknown) of David Jones, copyright The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum, Clive Hicks Jenkins 'Gawain's Blow', Charlotte Cory 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'

To mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War, Camberwell College of Arts, UAL, will present a major project that explores the life and themes of the work of artist, illustrator and poet David Jones, CH, CBE (1895 –1974).

Brockley-born Jones was aged just 14 when he first attended what was then Camberwell Art School. At 19, he volunteered to fight in the war, enlisting for service with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Jones remained a private throughout the war, fighting for longer than any other British writer and his wartime experiences would have a profound effect on him both emotionally and artistically, shaping much of his output for the remainder of his life.

Prior to the publication of his epic war-poem 'In Parenthesis', Jones had been an artist working in many modes, making numerous paintings, drawings and book illustrations, with a particular use of mythical imagery. The effects of revisiting his wartime memories to complete the first draft of 'In Parenthesis' were immense, and he suffered the first of several psychological breakdowns that would punctuate his life. Publication was delayed until 1937, by which time war memoirs had become more commonplace. However, this supreme work was ecstatically received by critics and 'In Parenthesis' is now widely regarded as one of the greatest ever literary works about war.

'A Mythic Understanding' is the culmination of a teaching project at Camberwell College of Arts led by illustrator and lecturer, Geoff Coupland (aka Zeel) that unpicks Jones's processes and use of myth in his work. The project offers a multi-faceted view of Jones and the experience of the Great War from a visual arts perspective and has four strands:

- an exhibition, at Camberwell Space – this will include works by John Vernon Lord, Clive Hicks Jenkins, Charlotte Cory and Marguerite Carnec, with displays about Jones life and work by design studio Work-Form
- displays by current students, staff and alumni
- a new publication featuring essays by Charlotte Cory and Pat Mills
- The remaking of lost war memorial to fallen staff and students at Camberwell College of Arts

'A Mythic Understanding' will provide a timely introduction to anyone new to Jones's work, as well as new perspectives for those taking a fresh look at this highly original and much neglected modern voice.

-ENDS-

Listings information

Address:

Camberwell College of Arts
Peckham Road
London
SE5 8UF

Opening hours:

Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm
Saturday 12pm – 4pm

Contact information:

General enquiries: 020 7514 6301
E mail: camberwellspace@camberwell.arts.ac.uk
Website: www.arts.ac.uk/camberwell/events/camberwell-space/

Social media:

Twitter: [@CamberwellSpace](https://twitter.com/CamberwellSpace)
Facebook: [/CamberwellSpace](https://www.facebook.com/CamberwellSpace)
Instagram: [/CamberwellSpace](https://www.instagram.com/CamberwellSpace)

#inspiredbydavidjones

Notes to Editors

1. For **further information** and **high resolution images**, please contact: Daisy McMullan, Camberwell Space Gallery Co-ordinator, via email d.mcmullan@camberwell.arts.ac.uk
2. **Camberwell Space** is the public gallery at Camberwell College of Arts. Presenting high quality, internationally-significant exhibitions and events in collaboration with leading artists, designers and curators, the programme reflects and extends the curriculum taught at the College. Housed in a new, purpose built space, the gallery offers our community the opportunity to engage with an original exhibition programme that provides new perspectives on current debates in contemporary art, design and craft.
3. **Camberwell College of Arts** is one of the world's foremost art and design institutions. Since 1898, it has had an international reputation for educating artists, designers and conservators to the highest levels, many of whom have become acclaimed practitioners including Cathy de Monchaux, Mike Leigh, Howard Hodgkin, Maggi Hambling, John Keane, Ewan Henderson, Humphrey Lyttleton, Gillian Ayres, Sarah Raphael and Tim Roth. It is one of the six colleges of University of the Arts London.
4. Camberwell College of Arts is part of **University of the Arts London (UAL)**, Europe's largest specialist art and design university. Its unique creative community is made up of six distinctive and distinguished Colleges: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins, Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon College of Arts. Renowned names in the cultural and creative sectors produced by the University include 12 Turner prize winners and over half of all nominees, 10 out of 17 fashion designers named British Designer of the Year, more than half of the designers showcased in London Fashion Week, 12 out of 30 winners of the Jerwood Photography Award and seven winners of the Prince Philip Designers Prize.