

ABOUT THE ART COLLECTION

The University of Reading's Art
Collection comprises around 1200
works of painting, drawing, sculpture
and graphic art. The Collection also
includes many pieces of national and
international significance. We are based
at the Museum of English Rural Life and
are part of the University Museums and
Special Collections Service.

ARTS COMMITTEE

The Arts Committee is a large committee supporting, promoting and representing the wide artistic interests of the University and local community. This leaflet was generously produced using grants for arts initiatives, awarded by the Arts Committee.

REAL JOBS SCHEME

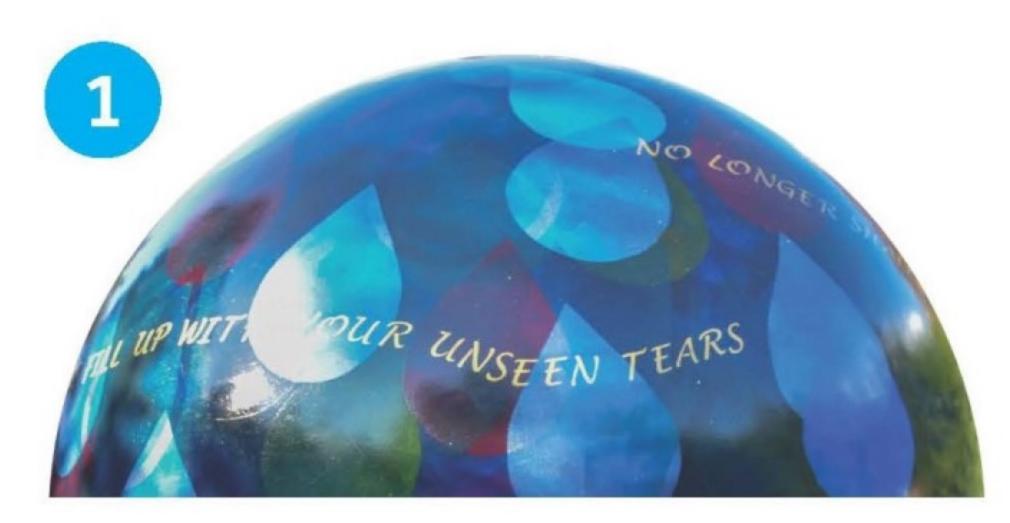
Designed by Tommy Molnar and Amirah Yasin, students in the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication, University of Reading. See typography. network/real-jobs-scheme for more student projects.





The World Reimagined

The World Reimagined is a ground-breaking, national art education project. It works to transform how we understand the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans, and its impact on all of us, so that we can make racial justice a reality.



Susan Thompson, Tears, 2022.

Susan Thompson's design responded to the theme 'The Reality of Being Enslaved', which makes real the experience of those people who were enslaved, from their capture, captivity and voyage to lives enslaved in different contexts, places and generations.



Kialy Tihngang, Toghu, 2022.

Kialy Tihngang's design responds to the theme 'Mother Africa', which explores the richness and reality of Africa before the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans; the impact of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans, and European colonialism on Africa. It considers and celebrates Africa's present and future.



Carol Sorhaindo, Economic Biosphere, 2022.

Carol Sorhaindo's design responds to the theme 'Expanding Soul', which celebrates the spirit and culture of the African diaspora that, even in the face of incredible suffering, has endured and found vibrant expression across the world in music, art, food and so much more.

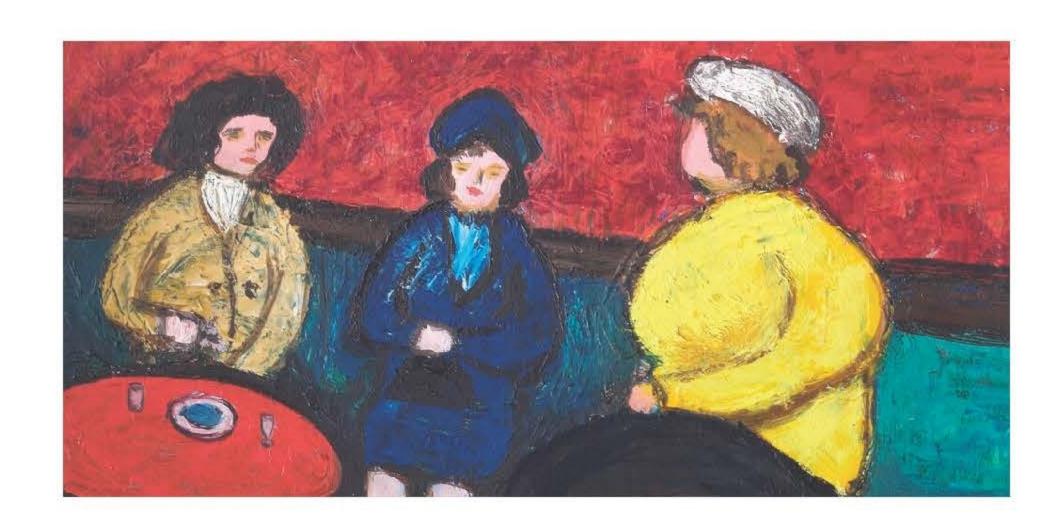


Lou Boyce, Ancestral Connections, 2022.

Lou Boyce's globe responds to the theme 'Stolen Legacy: Rebirth of a Nation', which considers how Britain was transformed as a result of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans, and the free labour of the enslaved. It explores the legacy of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans in building the financial and trading power of Britain.



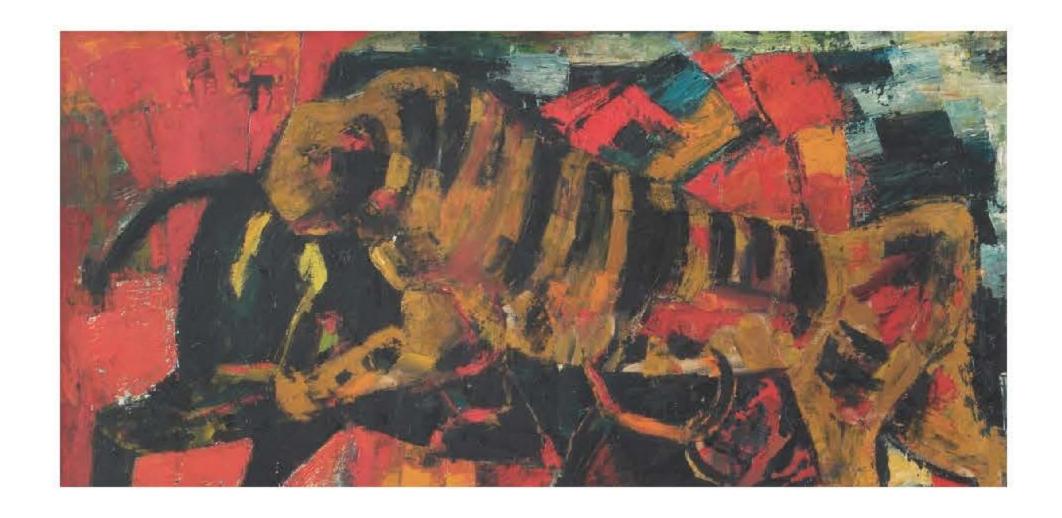




Alan Lowndes, The Three Graces, 1966

Detail. Acrylic on board. UAC/10113. © Estate of Alan Lowndes. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2024.

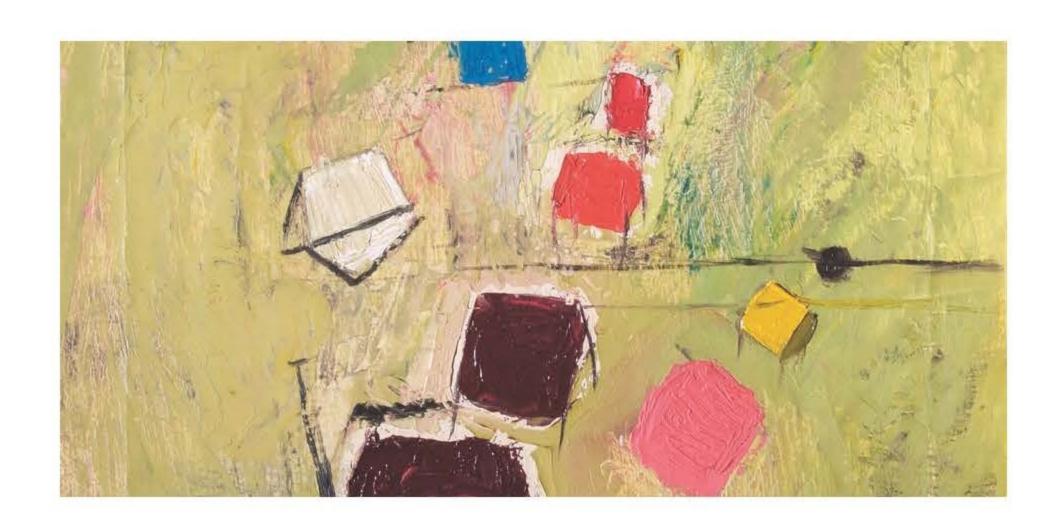
Primarily known for his scenes of northern, working-class life, Stockport-born Alan Lowndes was largely self-taught. After serving in Second World War, he studied painting at night school and began to see larger scale success in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Lowndes was closely compared to L. S. Lowry, who also painted scenes of industrial areas in the north of England.



Syed Ali Imam, Tiger and Bull, 1973

Detail. Oil on canvas. UAC/10362. © Syed Ali Imam.

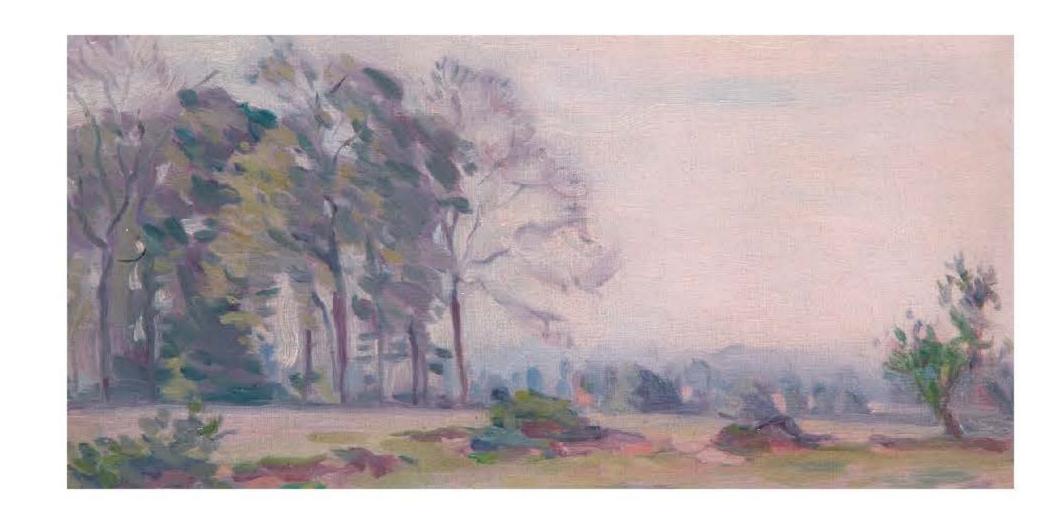
Syed Ali Imam, also known as Ali Imam, was one of Pakistan's most important modern artists. The 1947 partition of Pakistan and India shaped his political views, leading to his imprisonment on three occasions. In 1956, after years of living under surveillance, Imam moved to London, where he lived for ten years and widely exhibited his art. He opened the Indus Gallery in Karachi in 1971, which would represent Pakistan's most celebrated artists and cement Imam's status in the modern art world.



Mary Hoad, Areas of Colour, 1971

Detail. Oil on canvas. UAC/10355. @ Mary Hoad.

Born in Kent, Mary Hoad studied at the Chelsea School of Art. Interested in education, she served on the editorial board of Athene, the journal for the Society for Education in Art, which organized the 'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions. After working as the County Art Organiser for the Hertfordshire Education Authority, she became the principal of St. Albans School of Art in the 1950s. While principal, she was influential in the promotion of courses on art therapy.



Allen William Seaby, Landscape View, c. 1867-1953

Detail. Oil on board. UAC/10510. © the artist's estate.

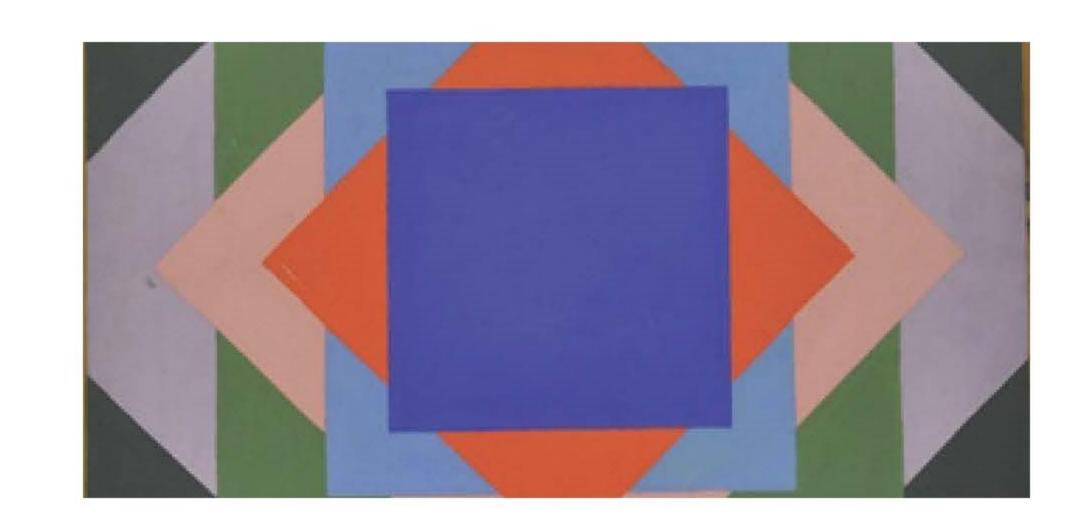
Allen Seaby was a painter, illustrator, printmaker and writer. Having studied at University College Reading, he later became Professor of Art at the University. Perhaps mostly widely known for his illustrations for the Ladybird Books of British Birds and Their Nests, Seaby was a prolific artist and writer, as well as a much-loved and highly influential teacher. His prints and drawings make up an important part of the University Art Collection, with additional prints and woodblocks held in the collections in Typography & Graphic Communication.



Frank Ormrod, Flower Study, c. 1975–1980

Detail. Oil on canvas. UAC/10044. © Frank Ormrod.

A painter and printmaker, Frank Ormrod studied at the Slade School of Fine Art from 1918–1922. He is best known as a freelance textile designer for Liberty & Co, as well as for designing posters for London Transport. From 1934 to 1964, Ormrod taught design at the University of Reading. He was also President of the Reading Guild of Artists from 1957-1969.



Duncan Newton, Colour Study, 1965-1969

Detail. Acrylic on canvas. UAC/10936. © Estate of Duncan Newton.

Having studied at Reading from 1978–1980, Newton became a part-time lecturer at the University. His paintings and collages were exhibited to wide acclaim in the United Kingdom and abroad, including at the Royal Academy, the British School at Rome, and the Kings Plow Art Centre in Atlanta, USA. His philosophy as a painter was that images can be altered and elaborated in endless combinations.



SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE



Terry Edmond, Sojourn, 2001

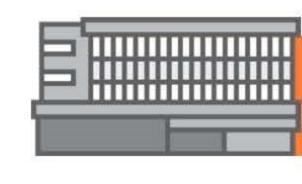
Detail. Oak, copper, aluminium and mirrored plastic on canvas. UAC/10348. © the artist's estate.

This 24-feet high, mixed-media artwork was created by British abstract artist, Terry Edmond. Having trained at Wolverhampton School of Art and the Slade School of Art in London, Edmond was a Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Reading between 1989 and 2007. The five separate panels that form this artwork contain various geometric, abstract and figurative designs. These are typical of Edmond's oeuvre.



Elizabeth A Talbot, The Four Seasons, 2001 Detail. High density gloss paint on canvas. UAC/10344-47. © Elizabeth A Talbot.

Elizabeth Talbot was an undergraduate student in the University of Reading's Fine Art Department when she was commissioned to create artworks for the new School of Agriculture building. Talbot drew inspiration from the farm in Oxfordshire where she spent her childhood, as well as the southwest coast of Cornwall, where she went to school. In these paintings, Talbot mixed gloss paints with natural pigments to create four bright and bold interpretations of the seasons.



THE LIBRARY



Linda Stein, Eleven Heroes, 2021-2022

Detail. Tapestry. UAC/11127. © Linda Stein. All Rights Reserved.

Linda Stein is an award-winning feminist artist, writer, and educator. This tapestry is from her 'Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Females' series, which celebrates female heroism during the Second World War. It memorialises eleven women whose lives and stories represent different aspects of bravery under extremely challenging circumstances.



OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY



Ben Cain and Tina Gverović, Floating Garden, 2019 Limecrete, sand and stones, and incorporates plastic waste generated by

the University. UAC/11052. © Ben Cain and Tina Gverović.

Artist-duo Ben Cain and Tina Gverović created the sculpture Floating Garden for the University in response to the theme of 'the library'. It's simple form invites interaction - it can be sat on, stood on, or used in more inventive ways.



Leon Kossoff, Willesden Junction, 1962

Detail. Oil on board. UAC/10234. © Leon Kossoff.

Leon Kossoff is one of the most accomplished British painters of the 20th century. Born in the East End of London to working-class, Ukrainian-Jewish parents, Kossoff discovered art when he was evacuated to Norfolk during the Second World War. Throughout his life, Kossoff felt compelled to obsessively draw and then paint his home city. This painting was created in the early 1960s, when he lived a few miles from Willesden station. It is one of a series of six paintings.

Information about artworks on display

This free art trail is designed to highlight artworks on display at the University of Reading's Whiteknights campus. It will take around one hour to view all of the artworks.

As our displays change regularly for conservation and exhibition purposes, it has not been possible to include all of the art on display. You may encounter additional artworks during your visit – we hope you enjoy them!