The Contemporary Art Society

For the Acquisition of Works of Modern Art for Loan or Gift to Public Galleries

> President : LORD HOWARD DE WALDEN

Treasurer : THE EARL PLYMOUTH. 54 Mount Street, W. Honorary Secretary : C. K. BUTLER. Bourton House, Shrivenham.

Committee :

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BOWYER NICHOLS THE EARL PLYMOUTH LORD RIBBLESDALE FRANK RINDER ROBERT ROSS

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

FROM the conviction that some of the finer artistic talent of our time is imperfectly or not at all represented in the National and Municipal Galleries, the Contemporary Art Society was initiated in the year 1909. Its aim is to encourage by purchase and exhibition the more remarkable examples of painters who in any other country would enjoy a certain official patronage. During the last century little or no attempt was made to secure for the nation any vital contemporary painting which has stood the test of time. It is almost entirely due to private munificence and foresight that Alfred Stevens, the

Pre-Raphaelites, and the Impressionists are represented at all in the National Collections or in Municipal Galleries. The Contemporary Art Society hopes to obviate a similar reproach being made against the present age. The Committee, on which are represented widely different opinions, believes that with the exercise of discrimination pictures by contemporary artists should be purchased in order to supply what may seem to posterity an inexcusable gap in our public museums and galleries, already overloaded with ephemeral work of the age preceding our own. The scope of the Society is limited to Artists living or recently dead, and is chiefly concerned with British Art : but it is open to Subscribers to allocate the whole or any part of their subscriptions to a separate fund for acquiring the works of foreign Artists. The Society will, for the present, remain the legal owners of the works it acquires; and will lend them for exhibition to various galleries in turn, rather than offer them as absolute gifts. It has, however, full power under its trust deed to take either course, and donors or bodies of subscribers are invited to indicate their wishes as to the ultimate destination of their gifts.

The annual subscription is placed at the figure of one guinea in order that as large a number of members may be enlisted as possible, but the Committee appeals earnestly to all lovers of art to contribute as largely as possible and to obtain contributions from their friends.

Cheques should be made payable to the Contemporary Art Society and crossed "Coutts & Co." THE Committee has pleasure in submitting its first Report for the period ending December 31, 1911, and a balance-sheet, which has been duly audited, showing the financial position of the Society at that date.

During the present financial year the Society has made further purchases which have considerably reduced the bank balance and call for renewed efforts to increase the membership.

A list of the purchases and gifts acquired by the Society, as well as a list of members, is printed at the end of the Report, and the Committee is glad to observe that since the inception of the Society it's membership has shown steady and continuous growth.

Under the supervision of the Society, a loan collection of pictures and drawings, which was formed last year through the liberality of many subscribers and others, has been exhibited in the cities of Manchester, Leeds, Aberdeen, and Bradford, and is at the present time on exhibition at Newcastleon-Tyne. The Society has also lent pictures to Kingston-on-Thames and Rochdale.

The Committee recognises the generosity of various owners, and believes that the exhibitions, besides proving of great interest, are playing an important part in the education of the artistic opinion of the country.

The Committee has made the exhibitions as wide in scope as possible since it considers that any loan collection should, as far as possible, embrace the expression of all serious attempts which are being made by the more progressive painters of the day. The attendances at these shows has been uniformly good, and over 115,000 people have attended those already held.

In order to encourage the study and art of Mural Decoration the Committee offered a prize of $\pounds 50$ at the recent exhibition at Crosby Hall, and this was awarded to Miss Esplin.

The Committee has also to thank many friends for gifts of works, and would be glad to consider further gifts.

The Committee also appeals to its supporters for the loan of pictures for long periods; it is continually being asked for the loan of a few pictures for some of the smaller galleries, to supplement other loans. Except in the cases of Kingstonon-Thames and Rochdale, it has been unable to comply with these requests; it would like to have a waiting list of available pictures, and earnestly requests subscribers and supporters to communicate with the Hon. Secretary on the subject.

The Committee hopes during 1913 to hold an exhibition of its own possessions in London, so that subscribers may see the result of its efforts since the foundation of the Society.

LIST OF PURCHASES 1910-1912.

OIL PAINTINGS

Smiling Woman. AUGUSTUS JOHN. 1911 Girl's Head. HENRY TONKS. 1912 La Reprise. AMBROSE MCEVOY. 1912 The Lowestoft Bowl. WILLIAM NICHOLSON. 1911 Arenig Manor, North Wales. DERWENT LEES. 1912 Phantasy. HENRY LAMB. 1912 Girlhood of Thisbe. VANESSA BELL. 1912 By faith Noah . . . prepared an ark to the saving of his house. MARGARET GERE. 1912/05 In Dentdale. DARSIE JAPP. 1912 The Queen of Sheba. DUNCAN GRANT. 1912 The Little Squaw (with the help of friends, members of the

Society). CHRISTIAN SYMONS.

The Society is also in negotiation for the purchase of a Portrait of the Artist's father by G. A. Storey, A.R.A., with the help of friends who are not members of the Society.

(1912)

WATER-COLOURS

Study of model for picture The Ear-ring." AMBROSE MCEVOY.

DRAWINGS

Despair. WALTER SICKERT. 1912 A Fakir. WILLIAM ROTHENSTEIN. (1911) Tahitian Subject. GAUGUIN. 1911

SCULPTURE

Two bas-reliefs. By ERIC GILL. (1911)

GIFTS

OIL PAINTINGS

- The Green Apple. By CHARLES CONDER. From Dalhousie 1910. Young, Esq.
- Two figures (Women). By WILLIAM ROTHENSTEIN. From Dalhousie Young, Esq.

Portrait of George Moore. By WALTER SICKERT. From P. 1910 Wilson Steer, Esq.

The Red Ruin. By C. J. HOLMES. From the Artist. 19/2

The Chintz Couch. By MISS SANDS. From the Artist. 1911 1911

Interior. By MISS JOHN. From a member of the Committee! 9/1

Nude. By MISS JOHN. From a member of the Committee. 1911

WATER-COLOURS

- Boys Bathing. By MARK FISHER, A.R.A. From a member of the Committee.
- On the Orwell. By DAVID MUIRHEAD. From a member of the Committee. 1911

St. Mary's Church. By A. W. RICH. From Miss E. P. McGhee. Interior of a Church. By SIR WILLIAM EDEN, Bart. From the Artist.

DRAWINGS, &C.

Jews praying. By WILLIAM ROTHENSTEIN. From a member of the Committee.

The Offering. By J. HAVARD THOMAS. From Prof. Sadler, C.B. 1911 Study of Nude Figure (Drypoint Etching). By E. COLE. From Ernest Collings, Esq.

Study. By Augustus JOHN. From A. N. MacNicoll, Esq.

Sculpture

The Dreamer. Statuette by JACOB EPSTEIN. From Mr. and 1911 Mrs. Francis Dodd.

Maternity. Statuette by CHARLES RICKETTS. From a member 1910. of the Committee.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Aitken, Charles Asquith, W. W. Astor, Waldorf Astor, Mrs. Waldorf Bacon, J. Walter Balcarres, Lord, M.P. Balfour, Mrs. Bate, Francis Beauchamp, Earl Belfast, Corporation of Bell, Clive Bell, Mrs. Olive Bell, Vanessa Bentinck, F. Cavendish Bentinck, The Lord Henry, M.P. Bentinck, The Lady Henry Iveagh, Viscount Blackwell, Geoffrey Borwick, Leonard Bourne, R. H. Bouverie, Hon. Mrs. Stuart P. Brock, A. Clutton Brocklehurst, Mrs. Brown, Ernest and Phillip Brown Mrs. Constance Burns, Walter Butler, C. K. Butterworth, Walter Buxton, Noel, M.P. Chadbourne, Mrs. E. Clay, Mrs. Spender Collings, Ernest R. Cox, Miss K. Currie, Laurence Curzon of Kedleston, Earl Daniel, A. M Davison, George Dodd, Francis Dodge, Miss Mary H. Dodgson, Campbell Dodgson, Mrs. H. Eckhard, Mrs. Evans, Judge Fellowes, Miss. E. Fisher, Edmund Fry, Geoffrey Fry, Roger Glen-Coats, Sir Thomas, Bt. Glenconnor, The Lord Gordon, Cosmo Greene, Raymond, M.P.

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Walden, The Lord Howard de Westlake, Mrs. Witt, R. C Wingate, W. W. Wingate, Rev. P. W.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1911

