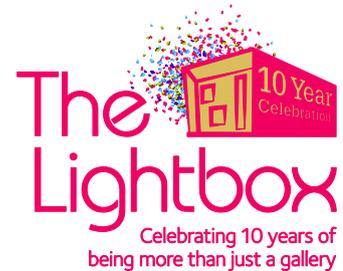


PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woking, Surrey, 26 January 2017



The Art of Sidney Sime, Artist and Philosopher

15 April 2017 – 28 May 2017

The work of the late 19th century artist Sidney Sime will be exhibited at the Lightbox gallery and museum in Woking for the first time from 15 April – 28 May 2017. This will be the biggest ever exhibition of the artist's work and include many recently restored paintings and illustrations from the collection based in Worplesdon. The exhibition 'The Art of Sidney Sime, Artist and Philosopher' will explore the life of Sidney H Sime (1865 – 1941), one of the greatest imaginative artists since Blake, renowned for his book and magazine illustrations, paintings and drawings. His art was shaped by his journey from the coal pits of Lancashire to the world of aristocracy, of the artistes of the London clubs, theatres and music halls. Sime's fascination with imaginary beasts, hell and the afterlife is in sharp contrast to his Scottish landscapes and later quiet life in Worplesdon, drawing caricatures in the local inn.

All this can be traced in fine black and white illustrations, theatrical caricatures of actors' comedians and singers, drawings of bogey beasts, dramatic oils of apocalyptic proportions, and humorous sketches of ordinary men doing everyday jobs in a marvellous display that has become an important local piece of social history.

Although his reputation languished for many years, and despite the encouragement of his two aristocratic patrons, Lord Howard de Walden and Lord Dunsany, to exhibit his works publicly, Sime's reticence and desire for anonymity mostly prevailed. His philosophy of life resulted from a 'profound inquisition into the minds of men' and his great and active brain. His exceptional and original fancy, his penetrating invention and his delicious humour earned for him the distinction of 'genius'.

"I don't like the idea of his being forgotten only to be rediscovered in a hundred years hence....I am determined that he should be recognized in spite of himself", wrote Lord Howard de Walden following Sime's death. The purpose built Sime Art Gallery at Worplesdon Memorial Hall from where the exhibits have been selected is home to over 800 items of paintings, drawings and memorabilia by Sime, bequeathed to the Trustees by his widow Mary.

The Trustees of the Sime Gallery in Worplesdon and Ewbank's Auctioneers of Send thank The Lightbox gallery and museum for hosting this exhibition to celebrate the memory of and to 'rediscover' the Art of Sime. The Trustees are indebted to Ewbank's Auctioneers for their generous sole sponsorship of the exhibition and to NADFAS, GEDFAS, Surrey Museums, Worplesdon Parish Council, Guildford Borough Council, Friends of Guildford House, and individual donors who have supported restoration and conservation of the works shown.

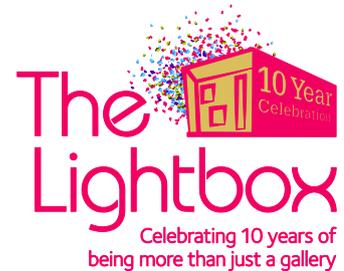
'The Art of Sidney Sime, Artist and Philosopher' will be on show at The Lightbox, from the 15 April 2017 – 28 May 2017. For further information please visit thelightbox.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

- **Contact Details:** For all press enquiries and high resolution images please contact Bethany Hopper, email: bethany.hopper@thelightbox.org.uk, telephone: 01483 737819, or Elizabeth Ransom, email: elizabeth.ransom@thelightbox.org.uk, telephone 01483 737833.
- **Visitor Information:** The Lightbox is situated in Woking (25 minutes from London Waterloo by train) open Tuesday – Saturday 10.30am – 5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm. For more information please visit www.thelightbox.org.uk or call 01483 737800.
- **Free entry, entrance to Main and Upper Gallery exhibitions only with a £5 Annual Pass. Under 18s free.**
- The Lightbox is a registered charity no. 1073543. The work of the charity sustains our high quality programme of exhibitions, learning activities and community engagement programmes.
- To find out more about the Henry Moore Foundation please visit <https://www.henry-moore.org/>
- To find out more about the Sidney Sime Gallery at Worplesdon Memorial Hall please visit <http://www.sidneysimegallery.org.uk/> or email info@sidneysimegallery.org.uk