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**ART**





## The visions of 'a genius'

**Chichester's Pallant House Gallery celebrates the work of David Jones (1895-1974) in one of two concurrent Sussex exhibitions.**

Vision and Memory runs from October 24 to February 21 in Chichester; The Animals of David Jones runs from October 24 to March 6 at Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft.

Jones had strong links to the area and is renowned for the wholly-original work he created across numerous disciplines throughout his life. A draughtsman, engraver, painter, maker of inscriptions, as well as a modernist poet revered by peers such as TS Eliot and WH Auden, David Jones was named by Kenneth Clark as 'the most gifted of all the young British painters' and 'absolutely unique – a remarkable genius.'

The two exhibitions will bring together some 120 works from public and private collections to trace Jones' entire artistic output, which ranged from sketches drawn in the trenches of the Western Front, to works made while living in Ditchling, a period which is acknowledged as being formative to Jones' artistic vision and subsequently to some of his finest creations.

The exhibition at Pallant House, the Gallery's major autumn show, will trace recurring themes in Jones' work, emphasising his great achievements as an engraver and watercolourist between 1926 and 1932, as well as the finest of his later mythologies. It will also showcase his painted inscriptions. The exhibition at Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft will take as its focus Jones' fascination with animals, which he depicted throughout his career.

The exhibitions will coincide with the centenary of World War I, in which Jones served on the front line as a foot soldier with the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1915-1918, and during which he was wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. He served for longer on the Western Front than any other major war poet, and this experience shaped his artistic vision and the symbolism within which he worked.

The exhibition at Pallant House Gallery will feature more than 80 works and is curated by Paul Hills and Ariane Bankes, authors of *The Art of David Jones: Vision and Memory*.

As Ariane says, the exhibition is the first major look at Jones since the 1995 exhibition marking the centenary of his birth.

"Paul knew David Jones when Paul was a young man, and we just felt the time was ripe for a reassessment. There are many people that absolutely love his work, but there are a lot of younger people who won't know his work very well at all.

"The reason is his work is mostly watercolour on paper, and most of his work is quite fragile. Even in the public collections it doesn't get shown very much because of its fragility. The Tate owns 13 works by Jones, but they are very rarely shown apart from an oil painting."



**Quia Per Incarnati, 1945, Private Collection, the Estate of David Jones**



**The Artist (frontispiece), 1927, Kettles Yard**