



Renoir

IN GUERNSEY, 1883

Sponsored By



Investec

30 September - 15 December

Renoir in Guernsey, 1883

14 July - 10 September 2023: Giverny, France

30 September - 15 December: Guernsey

Art for Guernsey is delighted to announce that an exciting new exhibition - Renoir in Guernsey, 1883 - will open at the end of September this year. The only Renoir exhibition in the world in 2023, it will celebrate the 140th anniversary of Pierre-Auguste Renoir's stay in Guernsey and the inspiration that he found on the island, and will be staged in partnership with the Guernsey Museums and the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny, including a host of major international loans.

The centrepiece of the event will be a fine art exhibition at Candie Museum, with other exhibitions and activities planned at the Priaulx Library, the Renoir Walk and Art for Guernsey's gallery in the Old Quarter, which is due to open this spring.

Renoir in Guernsey, 1883, Guernsey Museum at Candie

In September 1883, Renoir stayed in Guernsey for just over a month. During this period, he executed some 15 paintings, many of Moulin Huet bay. Fundamental in his production of landscapes, the series of views of Guernsey also attests to his constant research on the human figure and its integration into the natural environment. Fascinated by the crystal-clear waters and the steep topography of the island, but also by the mores of the inhabitants who bathed freely in the rocks, Renoir developed a new style with the bathers' freedom as a

source of amusement and inspiration. This international exhibition will be shown at the Musée des Impressionnismes in Giverny before moving to Guernsey Museum at Candie, and will bring together a significant set of works by Renoir related to his stay. Amongst these international loans sits *Rochers de Guernesey avec personnages* (plage à Guernesey), which Art for Guernsey syndicated a group of local art collectors to acquire, and which was last seen by islanders at 'Through the Eyes of a Master', the charity's 2020 exhibition.





**DAVID
UMMELS**

Founder, Art For Guernsey

The next step of the journey took place in 2020 when Art for Guernsey successfully syndicated and arranged for the acquisition of one of the masterpieces painted by the artist during his residence in Guernsey in 1883: 'Rochers de Guernesey avec personnages (plage à Guernesey)'. The artwork is widely considered to be one of the best that Renoir painted during his stay and is one of just five of the

David Ummels

Founder of Art for Guernsey, said:

"The Renoir journey began when Art for Guernsey curated the Renoir Walk in 2019. When we invited Cyrille Sciamia, Director of the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny and a world-renowned authority on Impressionism, to come to the island to inaugurate the walk, we were looking forward to being enlightened about the artist and his work. What we did not anticipate, however, was that Cyrille would make us aware of the profound influence that Renoir's visit to Guernsey had on his career. The inspiration Renoir found on the island, and at Moulin Huet in particular, is not well documented. Renoir was coming close to the end of his Impressionist period and was looking for new ideas to move away from portraiture. He was captivated by the nude bathers he saw at Moulin Huet, especially at a time when people were bathing fully dressed in France. That brought him back to antiquity, the old masters and Watteau, and it is highly likely that his experience in Guernsey helped him to make the shift towards painting nudes in landscapes."

original 'Guernsey-painted' pieces still in private hands; the other 10 sit in major museum collections, which include the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery in London and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

The local art collectors who acquired this piece were resolved to bring it back home for the good of the island, to actively capitalise on the >>



>> artwork to engage islanders and to promote Guernsey in a positive way. Its acquisition, together with the discovery of the inspiration Renoir found here, opened doors for collaboration in terms of curating, research and cultural exchanges.

Renoir in Guernsey, 1883 is the next step in the charity's journey. The team wishes to invite further research on the positive influence the island had on Renoir's career, and has

successfully engaged with fellow owners of 'Guernsey Renoirs', in particular the museums with extensive art history research departments and a strong educational ethos. Artworks that will feature in the exhibition include masterpieces from the National Gallery in London and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

It is Art for Guernsey's hope and ambition that the role Guernsey played in Renoir's career be fully acknowledged, illustrated and celebrated.

Art for Guernsey is delighted that Investec is to be the main sponsor of Renoir in Guernsey, 1883, expressing their desire to support the charity from the outset, and maintaining an active interest in the production and planning as the project develops.



Investec



**BRENDAN
STEWART**
CEO, Investec

"We are excited to be able to support this incredible initiative for Guernsey. To be hosting a world-class exhibition of works by a renowned artist such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir is a major coup for the island. Our congratulations go to Art for Guernsey for their endeavour and entrepreneurial spirit, which is something Investec endorses as part of our own culture. To have most of the works back on Guernsey soil in 2023 is tremendously exciting and Investec is honoured to be the lead sponsor of the exhibition."



IN GUERNSEY

1883





DAVID FURTHER SAID:

"This incredible project is the cumulation of thousands of hours of collective work over a period of almost four years, and I wish to express a debt of gratitude to Cyrille Sciama and the Giverny Museum, for the absolutely key role that they played in making this exhibition possible. It would not have happened without Cyrille's credibility and network, as well as the will of the French museums to support the development of the cultural scene in Guernsey. I also wish to place on record how happy we are to have a fabulous partner, the Guernsey Museums. Helen Glencross and her team stepped up to the plate and took all the relevant steps to upgrade the museum curating facilities and it has been a joy to work with them. Also, I would like to express heartfelt thanks to Investec for being the headline sponsor of this exhibition, we would not be able to organise this event without their very generous financial commitment and kind support. Finally, I also would like to give a big thank you to Art for Guernsey's team, for the extraordinary efforts that they put together to deliver this exhibition for the island."

Helen Glencross

Head of Heritage Services, Guernsey Museums, said:

“Guernsey Museums is absolutely delighted to partner with Art for Guernsey and the Musée des impressionnismes Giverny to bring together artworks by Renoir in this spectacular exhibition, marking his trip to Guernsey 140 years ago. We are excited to be part of the programme of exhibitions and events focused on Renoir and we look forward to welcoming visitors to engage with and be inspired by this celebrated Impressionist artist.”



Cyrille Sciama

Director of the Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny, said:

"I am very pleased to curate this exhibition with our friends at Art for Guernsey and the Guernsey Museums. This common adventure is the result of a serendipitous meeting in 2019 about the Renoir Walk. I am very happy to see this dream of Renoir in Guernsey come true with a fantastic team. I am sure the works by Renoir will bring happiness to the people of Guernsey: it is such a joy to bring back the works to where they were painted!"

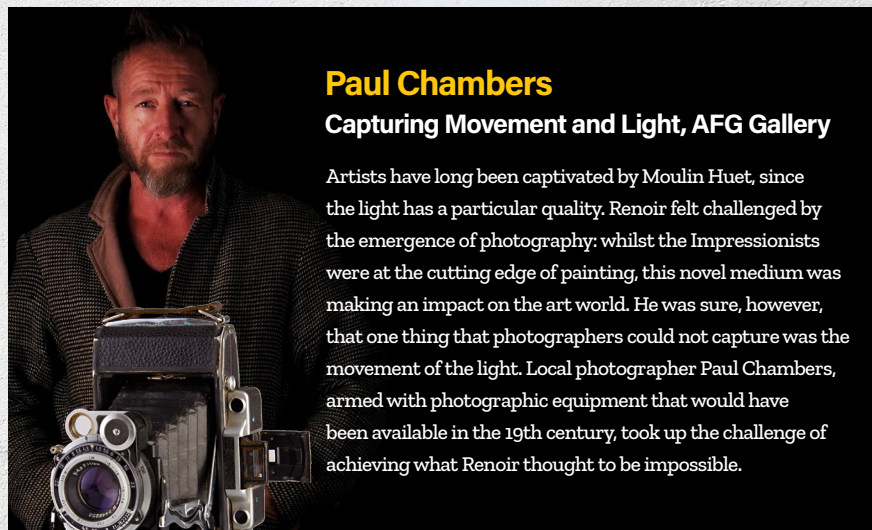
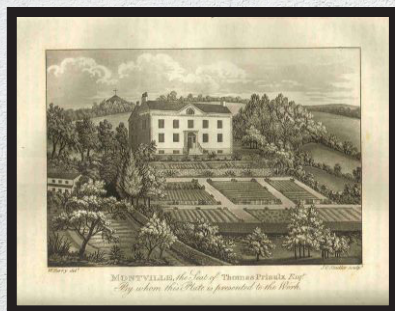


**ROCHERS DE GUERNESEY AVEC PERSONNAGES
(PLAGE À GUERNESEY)**

Pierre-Auguste Renoir 1883
Oil on canvas | 462 x 558mm

A Day in 1883, Priaulx Library

A fascinating collection of engravings, photographs and documents will recreate the atmosphere of the island at that time of Renoir's visit.



Paul Chambers
Capturing Movement and Light, AFG Gallery

Artists have long been captivated by Moulin Huet, since the light has a particular quality. Renoir felt challenged by the emergence of photography: whilst the Impressionists were at the cutting edge of painting, this novel medium was making an impact on the art world. He was sure, however, that one thing that photographers could not capture was the movement of the light. Local photographer Paul Chambers, armed with photographic equipment that would have been available in the 19th century, took up the challenge of achieving what Renoir thought to be impossible.



Cultural Enrichment Programme, AFG Gallery

Since last September, 530 Year Three pupils in 13 primary schools have been engaged in a project that brings the work of French Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir to life. Across six hour-long sessions, children learnt how to generate an idea and a composition for their own artwork and how to experience various art mediums. They were then shown the original Renoir painting brought back to the island by Art for Guernsey, with the view of using it as an educational tool to learn how to read a painting as well as promoting and celebrating our incredibly rich cultural heritage. Finally, the children created an artwork which had a special relevance to Renoir. The Renoir family could not afford to pay for



Pierre-Auguste's education, so he had to leave school at the age of 13 in order to earn money. He became an apprentice to a porcelain painter in a Parisian factory and decorated ceramic crockery to learn how to paint as well as making a living. All 530 Year Three pupils' artworks will be printed on ceramic tiles, which will be displayed in the new Art for Guernsey gallery.

The Renoir Walk, Moulin Huet

In 2019 Art for Guernsey put together the Renoir Walk, now a permanent fixture in the Moulin Huet valley. Refurbished in 2023, the walk is a self-guided alfresco exhibition that allows participants to see the bay from the same perspectives as Renoir did.

THE RENOIR WALK

RENOIR IN GUERNSEY, 1883



art
for Guernsey

Public Photography Exhibition

Art for Guernsey invites islanders and visitors to take up the same challenge as Paul Chambers, and to have their work exhibited at the gallery.

 #RenoirSnaps





Notes to editors

Art for Guernsey is a charitable initiative managed by a team of passionate professionals who share a belief in the transformative power of art to bring communities together, provide educational opportunities and promote Cultural Diplomacy. Each year Art for Guernsey invites an internationally renowned artist to visit and be inspired by Guernsey, and to produce related artworks to constitute an artistic legacy for the island. Art in School, our innovative art-lending programme, makes available artworks of museum quality to any Guernsey school willing to develop project-based learning opportunities and use the artworks in a multidisciplinary context (creative writing, geography, science, maths, history, technology and so on). This inventive art-lending programme has been incredibly successful: to date 18 Guernsey schools have engaged with the initiative. Art for Guernsey also has a strong remit to support local artists in various ways and to invest its resources to support various innovative art and education-related local charitable projects.

www.artforguernsey.com | For press enquiries, please contact Jon (Jock) Pettitt: jock@artforguernsey.com

