



# FAMILY MATTERS: A PRIVATE COLLECTION

Works by R.O.Lenkiewicz (1941-2002)

8 February - 23 March 2014

Open 7 days per week, 10am - 6pm

A FREE exhibition of work by Robert Lenkiewicz at Hannahs at  
Seale-Hayne, Newton Abbot, Devon. *Curated by Annie Hill-Smith*

  
hannahs  
at seale-hayne

The paintings you see in this exhibition come from private collections of Robert Lenkiewicz's work that have evolved over many years. They are related to each other by virtue of the fact that they are of members of the Lenkiewicz family or are of things that are associated with family. Some have never been seen in public before. They are from a range of Lenkiewicz's projects or are non-project pieces. They are 'personal'. They have been collected by members of the the Lenkiewicz extended family and retained because they are family related images.

After 1973, Lenkiewicz chose to show his work in collections he called 'Projects'. His children and their mothers appear very regularly in his projects but you may not have known that they were his children and we show here what could be called a new Lenkiewicz project ... or perhaps an old one ... a project or theme on the subject of family.

*"If we look at other painters we see that, like Lenkiewicz, their interests are NOT generally focused on family matters; they are engrossed with whatever it is that is grabbing their attention at the time, be it a new lover, finishing work for a Pope, getting shapes and colours down before the light changes or churning out stuff to pay the rent. Whatever ... but of course some [probably many] made images of their children and lovers even if we can't always identify the models as family".*

**Annie Hill-Smith**

Because Lenkiewicz showed his work within projects and the ideas that he researched in them were key to an understanding of his work we have

listed his projects in the catalogue and you can research these further if you are interested.

*"We do, however, see many painters painting their children and describing them as such and these can be uniquely haunting images. They are not made as a commission ... just made because the person was there and the painter wanted to record the moment. The portrait of Gainsborough's daughters is a good example, as is Rembrandt's portrait of Titus and Lucien Freud's pictures of his children. Augustus John painted his children regularly; in 1970 an exhibition of his work entitled "Portraits of the Artist's Family" was shown in Hull and in the National Museum of Wales".*

**Annie Hill-Smith**

So ... the theme of this exhibition is that of family. It is a social enquiry of sorts but also a celebration of the images Lenkiewicz made of his family. Does it provoke thought for you?

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**Friday 7 February**

**Sound Bites: Robert Lenkiewicz**

Join award-winning painter and close friend of Lenkiewicz, Nahem Shoa, as he explores each of the paintings in our exclusive exhibition.

He will compare these family paintings with the works of major artists throughout history who also took inspiration from family members.

**The Bistro, 7pm. £15 including supper.  
Call 01626 325822.**

*For more information*

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