ART/02/487

BEN URI ART GALLERY

Scenes from the Shtetl and Designs for the Russian Yiddish Theatre

AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY MEIR AXELROD
29 NOVEMBER – 3 JANUARY 2001

The Ben Uri Gallery is delighted to show Russian Theatre Designs by the famous artist, Meir Axelrod (1902 -1970) at The Manor House, Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, Finchely, London N3 2SY from 29 November to 3 January 2001, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday to Thursdays.

Axelrod belonged to the generation of artists who followed the pioneers in the national school of new Jewish art of the 20th Century; Soutine, Lissitsky, Chaikov, Ribak, Shternberg and Altman. Axelrod knew the Shtetl from birth and was familiar with its domestic, religious and spiritual life. His work expressed melancholy and foreboding for the fate of the Shtetl. It's inevitable destruction and loss became his indelible sorrow; he depicted it not merely as an observer but as a participant.

Whilst remaining a national artist, a Russian through and through, he followed Jewish tradition in all it's aspects – historical, cultural and spiritual and his art is reminiscent of the "poetic realism" in Russian art of the first quarter of the 20th Century.

The drawings on show in this exhibition – on sale for the first time in Britain – reflect his experiences and intimacy of Shtetl life. He was a renowned illustrator for books, magazines and the Jewish theatre not just in Moscow but also in Minsk, Kiev and Kharkov. His many drawings available in this exhibition from "Shalom Aleichem" stories are rare and wonderfully evocative of a time gone by.

The Ben Uri is honoured to be the first museum in the U.K. to show Axelrod's work and whilst in 1977 the writer, Yanoshovich, wrote in the Argentian Yiddish newspaper Letste Nayes; *"Axelrod didn't achieve the fame he deserves. Why this is so will perhaps become clearer to us later on. It is a great pity he is so little known outside Russia, even in those countries where his name should certainly enjoy wide acclaim."* Yanoshovich meant primarily Israel, the country Meir Axelrod was fated never to reach but his message remains true today and this exhibition is part of the rapid re-discovery of this great master whose works are only now becoming available on the open market.

The exhibition is a delight and will undoubtedly be a sell out.

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INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUEST TO THE PRIVATE VIEW OF

JEWISH EAST END COLLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS
"FROM SHTEIBL TO CITY"
SHTETYL
to be opened by a Special Guest at

7.30pm on Wednesday, 6th December 2000
at The Manor House, Sternberg Centre,
80 East End Road, Finchley, London N3 2SY

Two exhibitions are included:
prints of pre-war **Jewish East End** scenes by **John Allin**,
from Arnold Wesker's book "Say Goodbye, You May Never Seem Them Again"
and
Portraits of Russian Peasants and designs for Russian Yiddish Theatre by **Meir Axelrod**

Exhibition Continues: 29th November 2000 - 3rd January 2001 inclusive
11.00am - 4.00pm Sunday to Thursday (closed bank holidays)

These exhibitions form part of a Festival of Jewish East End Collections and Recollections to be held at the Sternberg Centre. The Festival also includes an exhibition of photographs of the Jewish East End by Sam Tanner, and a special display of relevant books at the Manor House Bookshop.

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By Meir Axelrod

29th November 2000 to 3rd January 2001
The Manor House, Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY

	Title	Medium	Size/cm	Price
1	**The Pink Jumper** 1929	Gouache on board	44x35	£1200
2	**In the Shtetl** 1928	Gouache on board	52x38	£1200
3	**A girl** 1929	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	45x36	£1000
4	**Revolutionary meeting in a shtetl** 1927	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	60x47.5	£1500
5	**A street in the shtetl** 1939	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	35.5x50	£1250
6	**At the river** 1929	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	31x47	£ 950
7	**Old Minsk** 1968	Mixed media	47x62	£1250
8	**Evening in the shtetl** 1968	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	50x62	£1500
9	**A boy from Lagoysk** 1928	Drawing	42x32	£ 650
10	**A boy from Minsk** 1928	Drawing	41.5x32	£ 850
11	**Jewish refugees** 1927	Drawing	72x54	£1250
12	**After pogrom** 1927	Drawing	54x72	£1250
13	**D.Bergelson "Measures of Severity I"** 1933 Moscow Jewish Theatre – costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	30x18	£ 750
14	**D.Bergelson "Measures of Severity II"** 1933 Moscow Jewish Theatre – costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	21x22	£ 750
15	**D.Bergelson "Measures of Severity III"** 1933 Moscow Jewish Theatre – costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	31x22	£ 750
16	**D.Bergelson "Measures of Severity IV"** 1933 Moscow Jewish Theatre – costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	29x20	£ 750
17	**Z.Lev "Strike of the Reapers V"** 1935 Bellorussian State Jewish Theatre –stage setting	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	29x38	£1250
18	**Z.Lev "Strike of the Reapers V"** 1935 Bellorussian State Jewish Theatre – stage setting	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	28.5x38	£1250
19	**Z.Lev "Strike of the Reapers III"** 1935 Bellorussian State Jewish Theatre -costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	45x31	£ 850
20	**Z.Lev "Strike of the Reapers IV"** 1935 Bellorussian State Jewish Theatre -costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	37x26.5	£ 975
21	**Z.Lev "Strike of the Reapers V"** 1935 Bellorussian State Jewish Theatre -costume design	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	43.5x31.5	£1150
22	**Sholom-Aleichem "Tevye the Milkman"** 1938	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	29.5x37	£1350
23	**M.Kulbak "Boitre, the Robber I"** 1936 Ukranian State Jewish Theatre stage setting – Synagogue	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	35x50	£1350
24	**M.Kulbak "Boitre, the Robber II"** 1936 Ukranian State Jewish Theatre stage setting – Synagogue	Gouache/Watercolour on paper	32x45	£1500
25	**Sholom-Aleichem "The Enchanted Tailor I"** 1947	Illustration	30x20.5	£ 500
26	**Sholom-Aleichem "The Enchanted Tailor II"** 1947	Illustration	30x20.5	£ 500
27	**Sholom-Aleichem "The Enchanted Tailor III"**1947	Illustration	27.5x20.5	£ 500
28	**Sholom-Aleichem "Stories I"** 1947	Illustration	31x21	£ 300
29	**Sholom-Aleichem "Stories II"** 1948	Illustration	27x21	£ 350
30	**Sholom-Aleichem "Stories III"** 1948	Illustration	17.5x26	£ 350
31	**Sholom-Aleichem "Mafusail"** 1947	Illustration	22x18	£ 450
32	**Sholom-Aleichem "Violin"** 1948	Illustration	31x22	£ 500
33	**Sholom-Aleichem "Clock"** 1948	Illustration	16x22	£ 300
34	**Sholom-Aleichem "Monologues"** 1947	Illustration	26x18	£ 450
35	**Sholom-Aleichem "If I were Rotschild.. I"** 1947	Illustration	29x20	£ 300
36	**Sholom-Aleichem "If I were Rotschild.. II"** 1947	Illustration	31.5x22	£ 300
37	**Sholom-Aleichem "Stories IV"** 1947	Illustration	12x25	£ 300
38	**L.Kvitko " A Song of my soul"** 1947	Illustration	25x21	£ 600
39	**L. Nayman "Children of the Jewish Commune I"** 1930	Illustration	26x19	£ 400
40	**L. Nayman "Children of the Jewish Commune II"** 1930	Illustration	19x26	£ 450
41	**L. Nayman "Children of the Jewish Commune III"** 1930	Illustration	20x29	£ 425
42	**Jewish refugees** 1930	Illustration	22.5x36	£ 600
43	**In the shtetl** 1930	Illustration	14.5x20	£ 400
44	**Family** 1930	Illustration	20x29	£ 700
45	**Before the wedding** 1921	Illustration	26.5x32	£ 850

Ben Uri Art Gallery

Jewish East End Collections and Recollections
From "Shtetl to City"

Pre-War Jewish East End Scenes
By John Allin

29th November 2000 to 3rd January 2001
The Manor House, Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road
London N3 2SY

John Allin

Almost entirely self-taught, Allin began painting seriously in the mid 1960's, producing street scenes of London's East End remembered from childhood. His book produced with Arnold Wesker, "Say Goodbye, You May Never See Them Again", was published in 1974.

1. **Hassel Street**
2. **Gardiners Corner**
3. **Spitalfields Market**
4. **Spitalfields Great Synagogue**
5. **Brick Lane**
6. **Petticoat Lane Market**
7. **Soup Kitchen**
8. **East End Café**

These prints are not for sale, but form part of the Collection of the Ben Uri Society, London.