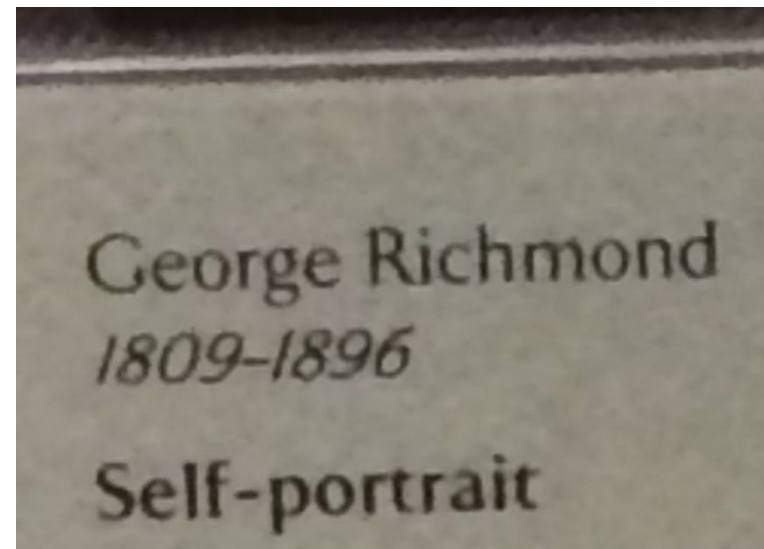


Curating a personal story



Perception; an exploration of interpretation

Self portrait



Modern Art



RECENT ACQUISITION

Graham Sutherland
1903-1980

La Petite Afrique III, 1955

La Petite Afrique refers to the steamy eastern suburb of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, not far from Menton where Sutherland, who had spent much time in the South of France, since 1947, bought a villa in 1955.

Bequeathed by Wilfrid Evill, 1963, received 2010
PD.44-2010

Mexican Day of the Dead skeleton



21

FIESTAS: THE DAY OF THE DEAD

The emphasis of much of this display is on religion and the artefacts associated with the festivities held to honour the Saints. Mexico and Central America are ostensibly Catholic countries, but it is a syncretic form of Catholicism.

In Mexico alone there are some 1,654 Saints for whom fiestas are celebrated every year. Many fiestas are location specific while others have a more national character as for example the Day of the Dead (All Souls) which is celebrated with special emphasis in Central Mexico. The artefacts displayed here were collected both in the 1890's and 1980's but show a remarkable continuity.



There is much variation from community to community. The celebrations last for 3 days and begin with the construction in each house of an altar for the spirits of a family's dead, both adults and children. The altars are decorated with fruits and flowers and later dishes of food are added to sustain the souls of the dead. Special breads, sweets and toys are made in the form of skeletons and are to be seen everywhere.

The Day of the Dead in early November emphasises death as Carnival in the Spring celebrates regeneration. The tradition is still very strong. The Mexican Government has recently sponsored competitions in secondary schools encouraging pupils to construct models of the altar as built in their homes, in an attempt to increase awareness among the young of the value of the country's traditions.



Decorations from 'The Day of the Dead', Museum of Popular and Industrial Arts, Mexico City. Photo: K.Norget.

Graveyard during the 'Day of the Dead', Xochimilco, Mexico City. Photo: K.Norget.

Egyptian pot



☞ Clay and silt made pot, painted with spirals to give impression of being made of stone

Mirror



Globe



Thank you for listening

