

ART FIRST



LEAMINGTON SPA
Art Gallery & Museum

Simon Lewty: The SIGNificance of Writing **29 April – 10 July 2016**

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum's exhibition of work by locally based artist Simon Lewty will run from **29 April – 10 July 2016**. This will be a survey exhibition of the artist's practice which will cover almost half a century of work.

On **Thursday 28 April between 6-7.30pm**, there will be an opportunity to preview *The SIGNificance of Writing* at a private view. Speeches will begin at 6.30pm; this is a free, drop in event.

Simon Lewty is a nationally renowned artist who was born in Sutton Coldfield and now lives and works in Royal Leamington Spa. His work combines evocative images with text generated from his imagination and dreams. The exhibition *The SIGNificance of Writing* will include early works by Lewty dating back to the 1970s, spanning almost 50 years, which will be displayed alongside work recently produced by the artist.

The exhibition will feature the fantastical artwork *The Men Who Lie in the Road* from Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum's collection, as well as works on loan from both London contemporary art gallery - *Art First* and Lewty's own private collection. Lewty describes *The Men Who Lie in the Road* as a compendium of his work, as it represents all the ideas and images that re-emerge in much of his art. This piece depicts Old Milverton, near Leamington Spa, and explores Lewty's fascination with the hamlet and the local landscape.

Lewty assembles and builds up his larger works from delicate drawings and text made on tissue paper. He describes his work as 'automatic, spontaneous' and promotes drawing as a form of 'primary visual thinking', with 'no planned final outcome'. This unusual process results in his work being likened to medieval maps, with their layered, 'palimpsest' appearance.

Lewty's work was last shown in Leamington Spa in 1999 and this exhibition will provide a unique opportunity to revisit his engaging practice. Audiences will be able to discover or rediscover Lewty's work as an artist who has made drawing and the mark of writing, as well as the art of creative, poetic writing, his life's work.

To mark the opening of this exhibition, there will be a free **Friday Focus Extra** talk given by freelance curator and lecturer, Brendan Flynn. This talk will take place at 1pm on **Friday 29 April**. Brendan will be discussing Simon Lewty's artistic practice.

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 8pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays) Admission Free.

