

## Exhibitions at the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum in 2025

### **May Morris: Art & Advocacy**

**5 April – 5 October 2025**

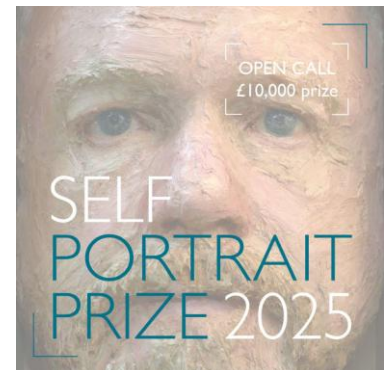
On loan from The William Morris Society, this beautiful exhibition explored the wide-ranging talents and accomplishments of May Morris (1862-1938), the younger daughter of Arts & Craft designer, William Morris (1834-1896). The exhibition includes May's original designs for embroidery and wallpapers for Morris & Co.



### **Self Portrait Prize 2025**

**22 July – 7 September 2025**

The Russell-Cotes partnered with the Self Portrait Prize to host an exhibition of shortlisted works from the 2025 competition. Open to both emerging and established artists, the competition celebrates the power of self-representation and artistic identity, inviting participants to explore and redefine the genre of self-portraiture in contemporary art.



### **Café Gallery – Recovering by the Sea: The Indian Army in Bournemouth**

**9 September – 23 November 2025**

In November 1914, around 100 injured soldiers arrived from the Western Front in Bournemouth to be cared for at the Mont Dore Hotel (now the Bournemouth Civic Centre), after it was requisitioned by the government to become a military hospital. For the next year, a constant stream of troops would be sent to the town to be cared for. Soldiers who recovered at the hospital formed cricket and football teams in the town and organised matches against local sides. This exhibition explores this largely unknown story of the British Indian Army in Bournemouth during World War I.



### **Print Room: Continuing the Legacy: New Acquisitions at the Russell-Cotes**

**7 October 2025 – 4 January 2026**

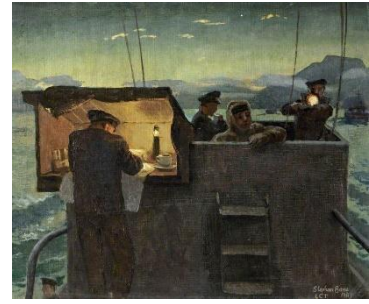
This mini exhibition of recent acquisitions celebrates the generosity of our supporters, featuring additions to our collection from the past few years, including work by Lucy Kemp-Welch, Leslie Moffat Ward and Eustace Nash. As a charity, we are grateful for the donations that allow us to grow and diversify the legacy of our founders, Annie and Merton Russell-Cotes. These additions help us fill gaps in the original collection, enrich the visitor experience, and ensure the museum continues to inspire for generations to come.



## Artists at Witness: The Impact of War

25 October 2025 - 8 March 2026

This thought-provoking exhibition explores the importance of the artist as eyewitness, providing insights not only into warfare but also the impact of war on those involved and the communities affected. It includes artwork from the First and Second World War, as well as recent work by award-winning artist George Butler of the war in Ukraine.



## Flower Fairies: Enchantment by the Sea

28 March 2026 – 4 October 2026

An exhibition of the work of *Flower Fairies* creator and artist, Cicely Mary Barker (1895-1973), featuring working sketches to complete artworks of many of the fairies, as well as her childhood sketches and inspiration. The first *Flower Fairies* book was published in 1923, and all of Barker's illustrations were botanically accurate; she enlisted the help of staff at Kew Gardens, who would often visit with specimens for her to paint. The Fairies were often inspired by real children that Cicely knew, who she would ask to hold the flower, twig or blossom, to ensure accuracy of her depiction.



## Edo Women: Prints from Japan (exhibition title TBC)

24 October 2026 – 11 April 2027

An exhibition of Japanese prints focussing on the lives of women from the collection of Francis Milner, former Curator of National Museums Liverpool, displayed alongside highlights of the Museum's collection.



## The Temperists; Golden Glory (exhibition title TBC)

30 April – end September 2027

Tempera painting (pigment and egg yolk combined and built up over many layers to create a vivid matte finish) was widely used throughout Western art during the 13th-15th centuries. Tempera however fell into disuse following the introduction of oil paint, and its formula and technique were virtually lost. In Britain, tempera was 'rediscovered' during the 19th-20th centuries by artists associated with both the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Craft movements. This exhibition will chart the intriguing history of tempera and its impact on British art and will be first major retrospective exhibitions of tempera in over twenty years, with opportunities to tour nationally.

