

Dorothy Coke

Brighton and beyond

Drawings and watercolours from the estate of Dorothy Coke, RWS, NEAC (1897-1979)

**HARRY MOORE-GWYN
BRITISH PICTURES**

JENNINGS FINE ART

Catalogue for an exhibition held at the Art Worker's Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT

24th-29th November 2014

Dorothy Coke, NEAC, RWS (1897-1979)

Dorothy Coke was born in Southend-on-Sea. She studied at the Slade School of Art under Frederick Brown and Henry Tonks from 1914-18. She was the youngest artist to be considered for official employment with the British War Memorials Committee. No work by the artist was purchased through the scheme, although Muirhead Bone encouraged her to complete Home Front subjects for the Imperial War Museum and two watercolours, dated 1919, are currently on display in the Truth and Memory: British Art of the First World War exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

In 1940 she was commissioned by the War Artists' Advisory Committee (together with Evelyn Dunbar and Ethel Gabain) to record the work of the Women's Services and drawings in this exhibition relate closely to watercolours of WAAF Instrument Mechanics and Nursing Services held in the collection of the Imperial War Museum. Her work was included in the influential *Britain at War* exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1941

Teaching at Brighton College of Art from 1939 until 1967, Coke lived in nearby Rottingdean for most of her working life. She made detailed watercolour records of the demolition of the old College of Art, 1963-66 and these are held in the Aldrich Collection at the Faculty of Arts and Architecture at the University of Brighton.

This collection of watercolours and drawings comes from the collection of her friend and colleague Norman Clark, and records Brighton and the South Downs in wartime and peacetime, and also features work done on a painting trip to Dieppe.

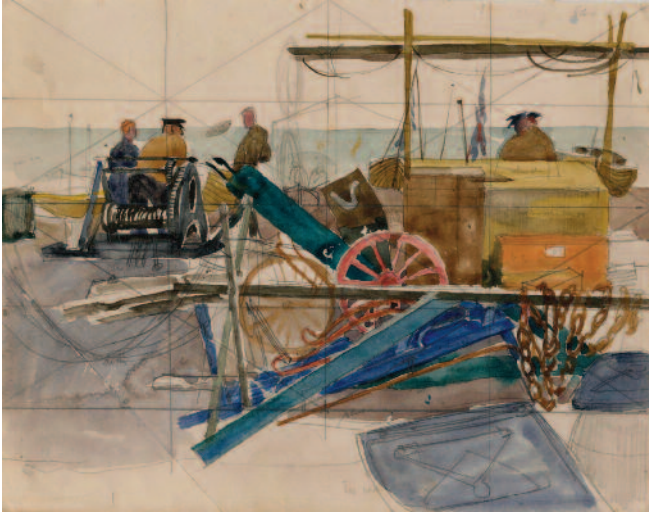
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Catalogue

(all works are by Dorothy Coke, RWS, NEAC (1897-1979))



1. *The Fish Market near the West Pier*

Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm



3. *Fishing Boats on the Shingle, Brighton,*

Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm

2. *Brighton rainbow, 1937,* watercolour, 15 by 17 cm

(illustrated front cover)

4. *Fireworks, 1946,* watercolour, 15 by 17 cm

(illustrated back cover)



5. *Shops in Dieppe*, watercolour, 13 by 16.5 cm (inside front cover)

The following four works date from a trip Coke made to Dieppe in 1954.

6. *Les Arcades, Dieppe*, watercolour, 13 by 16.5 cm

7. *Café Maurice, Dieppe*, watercolour, 13 by 16.5 cm

8. *Dieppe Rooftops and the Eglise St. Remy beyond*,
watercolour, 13 by 16.5 cm





9. *Cat perched on a Morrison shelter, 1944*, pen and blue ink,



10. *Palace pier Brighton during the war*
inscribed with title
watercolour,

The Palace Pier in Brighton was sectioned during the War - a piece was taken out between the root end and the pier head to prevent it from being used by the enemy in the event of an invasion.



11. *Communist party meeting, Brighton Beach, 1940s*
watercolour over pencil, 19 by 20 cm



12. *WAAF Mechanics at Work*, c.1941, pencil

13. *WAAF Instrument Mechanics at Work*, c.1941, pencil

Catalogue nos. 12 and 13 both relate to a watercolour that was commissioned from Coke by the War Artists Advisory Committee. It shows mechanics from the Women's Auxiliary Air Force at work on munitions. That watercolour is now in the Imperial War Museum (cat.no.LD 1298).



14. *Military Hospital*, c.1942

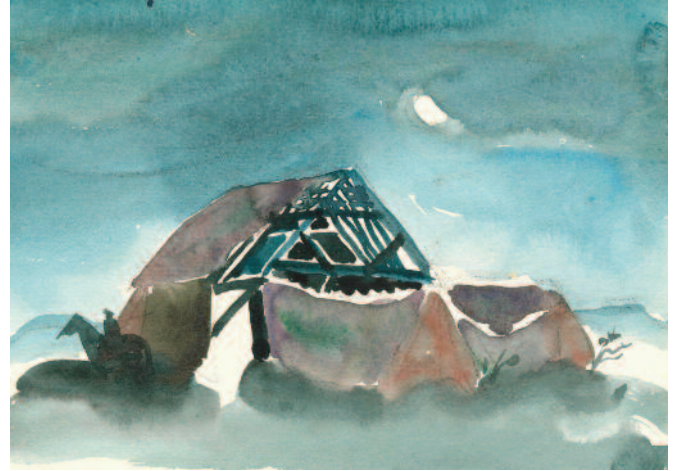
Pencil

A related watercolour dating from 1942 is now in the Imperial War Museum (cat no.15367) where it was donated by Coke's great friend, fellow artist and teacher, Norman Clark.





15. *Farmland near Brighton, possibly near Roedean School*,
Watercolour, 17 by 27 cm



16. *Ruined Barn*, watercolour, 13 by 17 cm

17. *Fairground Carousel*, watercolour and pencil, 11 by 20 cm



18. *Brighton Fairground, Looking up towards the Racecourse*,
Watercolour, 18 by 22.5 cm





19. *A Brighton Terrace*, watercolour, 13 by 16.5 cm

20. *A Brighton Terrace, possibly Kemp Town*, watercolour, 13 by 16 cm

21. *Waves on a Stormy Morning*, watercolour and gouache, 10.5 by 17 cm





22. *Fishing Boats on the Shingle, Brighton*, watercolour, 13 by 17 cm

23. *Fishermen's Huts, possibly Shoreham*, watercolour, 13 by 17 cm

24. *Fishing Boats and Winch, Brighton*, watercolour, 13 by 17 cm





25. *Demolition of the Brighton College of Art, c.1964*
signed, inscribed extensively and stamped: NC
Watercolour over pencil and crayon, 29.5 by 42 cm

One of a series of drawings recording the demolition of the old Brighton College of Art in Grand Parade. As a mark of respect she titled many of the drawings "Requiem". Some are now held by Brighton University.



26. *Antiques Shop in The Lanes, Brighton*

Signed: Dorothy Coke

Watercolour,

A note on the reverse of this picture sheds further light on Coke's views of development in Brighton: "famous landmark 'destroyed' as Lanes were brought up to date and one of the famous crescents obliterated..."



27. *View from a drawing room window, Brighton*
Watercolour, 18 by 12.5 cm

28. *Brighton Seafront, Kemp Town and Black Rock*
Watercolour, 12.5 by 17 cm



29. Grand Parade, Brighton

Inscribed with title and stamped: NC

Watercolour over pencil, 28.5 by 38 cm



30. *Rooftops, possibly Kemp Town*

Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm



31. *Paddle Steamer, Palace Pier*
Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm



32. *Christ Church, Brighton Unitarian church*
Watercolour, 15 by 12 cm

33. *Windmill, possibly Rottingdean, 1968*

Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm

34. *Cats, 1921*

Pen and blue ink, 13 by 15 cm

35. *Fireworks, 1946*

Watercolour, 15 by 17 cm

36. *Pavilion Gardens, Brighton, 1937*

Watercolour, 18 by 25 cm

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