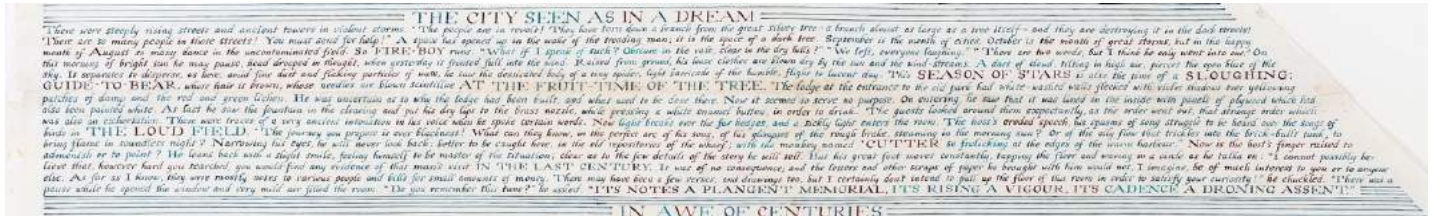


Simon Lewty 1941 – 2021
Messages From the Past:
Master Works From Five Decades

10 October - 17 November 2023



This is the first tribute exhibition for Simon Lewty since he died in 2021, and it brings to light some of his most affecting, curious and brilliant works. The dream like imagery, with its flow of calligraphic words and the overall poetic output, is unlike any other artist's. Following his major debut exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery, in 1985, his practice evolved privately, from home studios in Leamington Spa and through regular exhibitions with Art First in London. Various Art fairs and occasional exhibitions of work abroad, acquisitions and guest appearances in museums throughout the UK, brought him to the attention of others, especially artists, but he did not travel or 'market' himself, making only occasional appearances at exhibitions, attending his own openings and gallery dinners, but then rapidly retreating to the calm of his studio.

He leaves an extraordinary legacy. There are about 350 works, all on paper as this was his only medium and therefore all his works are drawings rather than paintings, for it was the pencil and the pen, not the brush, that were his tools. We await the release of fifty hours of interview with Cathy Courtney for the 'Artists' Lives' sound recordings in the British Library archive, which is shared with Tate. Lewty chose to keep his interview locked until after his death, so there will be revelations.

For full exhibition statement please visit www.artfirst.co.uk

Below is a selection of works included in the exhibition:

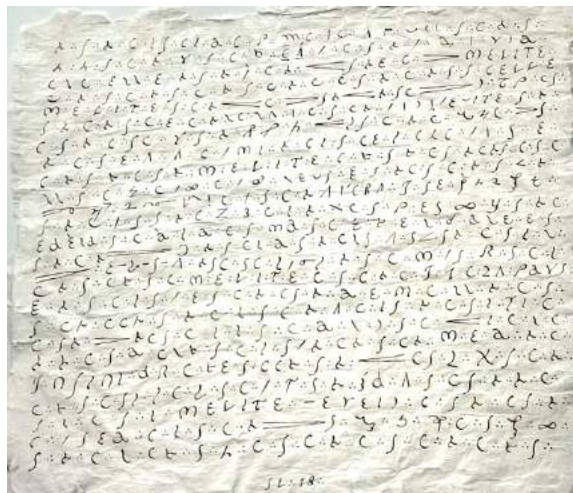
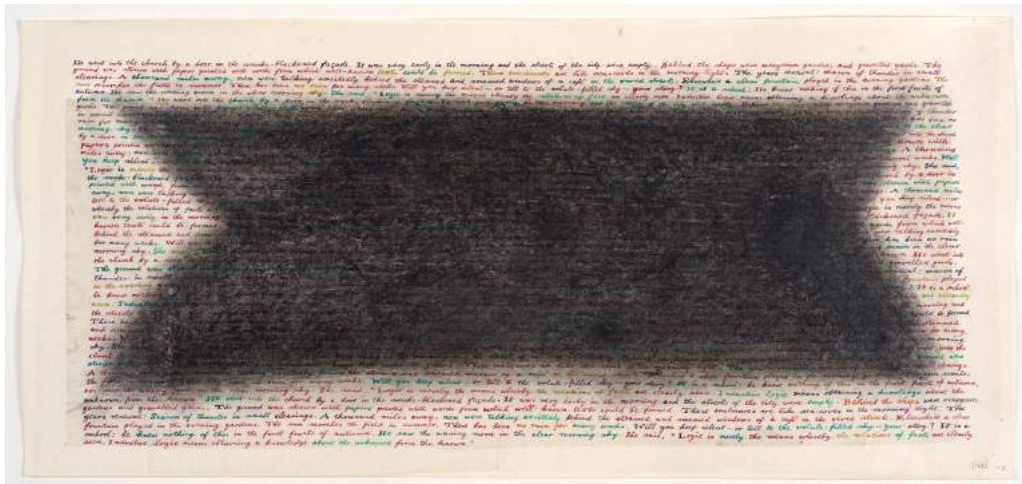


Above: Simon Lewty, *Jokes on the Porch*, 1993, pencil and acrylic on paper, 66 x 198cm



Top: Simon Lewty, *Jokes on the Porch*, 1993, pencil and acrylic on paper, detail.

Below: Simon Lewty, *The Passage Towards Stone*, 1984, acrylic, ink, pencil crayon on paper, 156 x 156 cm



Top: Simon Lewty, *Logic*, 2003, coloured ink, acrylic and pastel on paper, 49 x 87cm
Centre: Simon Lewty, *Notations for a Script for a Phonetic Play I*, 2012, coloured ink on tissue on paper
Bottom: Simon Lewty, *Nereid* 2018, ink on gesso on paper, 26 x 26cm (using tachygraphy, a 17thC shorthand).

For further information please contact Clare Cooper : clare@artfirst.co.uk and visit www.artfirst.co.uk

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