

NEW ACQUISITION FOR THE GALLERY: CHRISTOPHER COOK'S *MEMENTO MORI*

Some of you will have visited the exhibition 'Making a Masterpiece: Bouts and Beyond' which ran from October 2019 to January 2020. As well as focussing on the School of Dieric Bouts *Saint Luke Drawing the Virgin and Child*, this exhibition included a section looking at artworks of the so-called 'Golden Age' of Dutch and Flemish art drawn from the Gallery's collection juxtaposed with new works by the contemporary artist Christopher Cook inspired by them.

One of Cook's works, *Memento Mori*, has been purchased for the Gallery by the Collection Fund at a cost of £2,000. It is a work in graphite and resin on paper relating closely to *Still Life of Fruits and Flowers with Bird's Nest on a Marble Ledge* (1744) by Jan van Os (YORAG: 1493). Christopher's interpretation is made contemporary with a burning building added to the background and van Os's butterfly being replaced by a Death Head Hawk Moth: the two works are reproduced below:



Christopher is a well-established North Yorkshire-born artist; details of his career can be found on his website www.christophercook.cc. There is also a video on YouTube uploaded by the University of York that describes the creative processes involved in the making of *Memento Mori*. The link is:

<http://yahcs.york.ac.uk/collaborations/guest-lecture-by-artist-christopher-cook/>

Because of the closure of the Gallery the work is not currently on display, but the Curator is planning to showcase it once the Gallery reopens.

The primary objective of the fund is to raise a fund to support acquisitions for the Gallery by encouraging supporters of the Gallery to become subscribers paying a monthly subscription to the FYAG Collection Fund by standing order. We would welcome any new subscribers.

Inevitably the Gallery is currently closed, and most of its staff on furlough, so that all its activities are on hold. We hope to build the Fund in this time to support new acquisitions when life returns to normal.

Richard Bailey
Collection Fund Administrator
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