



[Design for Porthia Prints?]

Robert Adams

Not on display

Title/Description: [Design for Porthia Prints?]

Artist/Maker: Robert Adams

Born: 1955

Object Type: Print

Materials: Linen

Accession Number: 31580

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Britain, England, Europe

Credit Line: Bequeathed by Joyce and Michael Morris, 2014

Asymmetric rectangles and dynamic black lines have been arranged in this abstract print to create a sense of poised movement. Known primarily as a sculptor, Robert Adams regularly created and exhibited abstract prints and collages alongside his three-dimensional works. Many of his sculptures from the 1950s use thin rods and planes of sheet metal, welded together to express movement. In this print, Adams explores similar relationships between form, line and space, using colour and bold silhouetting to further the impact of his composition.

This design was screen-printed onto linen and produced as a tablemat by Porthia Prints, a company set up by the artist Denis Mitchell to circulate work by artists associated with St Ives. Thirteen selected designs were exhibited at Heal & Son Ltd in London in 1955. Other artists participating in the project included Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Stanley Dorfman, John Forrester, Terry Frost, William Gear, Barbara Hepworth, Patrick Heron, Roger Hilton, Peter Lanyon, Denis Mitchell, Michael Snow and John Wells. [1]

Lisa Newby, July 2022

[1] For images of these works, see <http://www.denismitchell.co.uk/frames/main%20frame.htm>

Provenance

In October 1984, the University of East Anglia accepted a planned bequest from Joyce and Michael Morris (UEA Alumni). Michael died in 2009 and Joyce in December 2014 when the couple's wishes were implemented.
