

Press Release

The Geoffrey Clarke Appeal

Stained Glass Museum successfully raises £15,000 to buy four modern stained glass panels by pioneering post-war British artist

After launching an appeal in May 2013, The Stained Glass Museum has successfully raised £15,000 to purchase four unique modern stained glass panels from the studio of Geoffrey Clarke, RA (b.1924). Geoffrey Clarke, RA, was one of the most innovative British artists of the twentieth century, working in stained glass, sculpture and printmaking. Amongst his commissions for stained glass, were three of the pioneering modern windows at the new Coventry Cathedral built to the designs of Sir Basil Spence in 1957-62, after the medieval building was bombed in the Second World War.

The four stained glass panels acquired by The Stained Glass Museum in January 2014 were made in the 1940s and 1950s as exhibition or experimental pieces. They demonstrate how Clarke combined stained glass, mosaic and sculptural techniques to produce unique artworks. *St Anthony*, *Saint Sebastian*, and *Priest* (all made in 1949) are all modern abstract compositions inspired by religious devotion and torment. The fourth panel *Fragment* (1956-59), pictured below, is an innovative three-dimensional panel which reveals Clarke's interest in abstract sculptural forms.

Dr Jasmine Allen, Curator, announced *"This is a major and exciting acquisition for The Stained Glass Museum, which recognises the role that stained glass played in the development of British modernism. But the fundraising continues! Please help us to raise an additional £5,000 to fund the specialist conservation and display of these incredible artworks."*



Geoffrey Clarke (b.1924), *Fragment* (1956-59).
Glass, lead, aluminium, 91.4 x 73 x 15.2cm.

Help get these panels on display!

The Stained Glass Museum needs to raise a further £5,000 to fund conservation work and place the panels on display in the main gallery at The Stained Glass Museum.

You can donate to the Appeal, and find out more, via our website:

www.stainedglassmuseum.com/geoffreyclarkeappeal.html

The Stained Glass Museum is grateful to the many individual donors and charitable bodies who contributed towards the purchase of these panels, including: The V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Art Fund, The Headley Trust, The Matthew Wrightson Charitable Trust, and The Decorative Arts Society.

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