



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN, ANGLING AND FIELD SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

DATE 4/29/13

FROM:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The first American screening of the film "Summer in February" was held at the National Sporting Library & Museum, Middleburg, Virginia. Photo by Saskia Paulussen, Photography, LLC, courtesy of the National Sporting Library & Museum.

**Major Fund-Raiser Stars 20th Century British Painter
Sir Alfred J. Munnings at the National Sporting Library & Museum**

MIDDLEBURG, VA - The focus was on British artist Sir Alfred J. Munnings, famed 20th century painter of horses and English country life, at the National Sporting Library & Museum, April 21, 2013, with *Munnings: Out in the Open*, an NSLM-curated exhibition of 68 paintings; a second exhibition of papers and drawings in the NSLM collections called *Sir Alfred Munnings in Print*; and a private screening of "Summer in February."

A British-produced film revolving around the artist who spent time with fellow painters in an artist colony on the coast of Cornwall before the First World War, "Summer in February" will be released in the U.K. in June. Over 430 people attended this fabulous NSLM fund-raiser.



Photo 1 NSLM Chairman Manuel H. Johnson and Executive Director Melanie L. Mathewes

Photo 2 Grace Bender, Susan Pillsbury, Ann Nitze and The Hon. William A. Nitze, Monica Greenberg (all of Washington, D.C.) and April Gow (London)

Photo 3 Lady Westmacott and His Excellency The Ambassador of the United Kingdom Sir Peter John Westmacott, Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars, Mrs. Wilhelmina Cole Holladay

Exhibitions

Guests arrived to preview the extraordinary *Munnings: Out in the Open* paintings, six of which have never been shown in the United States. The NSLM exhibition is the largest U.S. presentation of Munnings' work in the in the past thirty years.



Photo 4 *The Morning Ride: Florence Munnings on Horseback*, 1913, oil on canvas, private collection, New York © Castle House Trust (Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum)

Photo 5 *Impressions of Cows in a Stream*, 1912, oil on canvas, private collection, © Castle House Trust (Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum).

Photo 6 *Going Out at Epsom*, 1931, oil on canvas, private collection, © Castle House Trust (Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum)

Paintings were loaned by important private collectors and institutions such as the Yale Center for British Arts, New Haven, Connecticut; Castle House Trust, Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum, Dedham, England; National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, Saratoga Springs, New York; Pebble Hill Plantation, Thomasville, Georgia; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania; Canadian War Museum, Ottawa; and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond.

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Catalog

In the beautiful catalog accompanying the exhibition, NSLM Chairman of the Board Manuel H. Johnson wrote, “Alfred Munnings, as one of the most recognized sporting artists of the twentieth century, a published author, and vocal proponent of the preservation of the countryside, speaks to the core interests of this institution and its mission.” The 160 page catalog contains reproductions of all of the paintings on view and essays by *Summer in February* author and film screenwriter Jonathan Smith; film producer Jeremy Cowdrey; international Munnings authority and NSLM board member Lorian Peralta-Ramos; and James Johnston, owner of Mendham Mill and Chairman of Castle House Trust. The NSLM color catalog was edited by exhibition curator Claudia Pfeiffer and is available for \$30.00.



Guests also previewed *Sir Alfred J. Munnings in Print* in the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall which shows unpublished Munnings drawings and letters, a part of the NSLM collections. Selected letters provide insight into Munnings’ personality, opinions and social verve.



Dinner and a Movie

During refreshments on the patio, the international crowd had an opportunity to chat with “Summer in February” producers Jeremy Cowdrey, Pippa Cross and Janette Day. CrossDay Productions has guided films that have gained numerous nominations for major awards, including two Academy Awards. “Summer in February,” which was featured in the January 2, 2013, issue of *Country Life*, is scheduled to be released in Britain on June 14, 2013. Starring Dominic Cooper, Dan Stevens and Emily Browning, the visually rich film is based on the diaries of Gilbert Evans, one of the people in the Lamorna artist enclave. Jonathan Smith used the diaries to develop the book, *Summer in February*, which became the basis for the film of the same name.

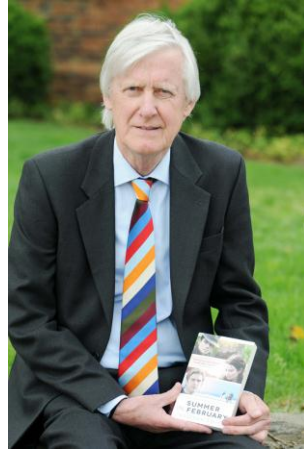


Photo 7 Pippa Cross, Jeremy Cowdrey, Jeanette Day
Photo 8 Jonathan Smith

Guests strolled to a large tent on the NSLM grounds for dinner and the much anticipated first American screening of the film. A Cornish-themed dinner was followed by truffle oil popcorn and Mars chocolates.



Photo 9 Jeremy Cowdrey, Pippa Cross, Jacqueline B. Mars, F. Turner Reuter, Jr., Jeanette Day

Chairman Manley H. Johnson welcomed guests and thanked the principal organizers of the evening: Mrs. Robert H. Smith, Chairman; the Ladies Committee; and Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars who was instrumental in bringing the film to the NSLM for a private screening. Johnson also acknowledged the many sponsors of the evening whose support helped to make the *Munnings: Out in the Open* exhibition and the evening's celebration possible. A major gift of a flying package was given by NetJets®. Enthusiasm took hold when a spontaneous auction occurred during the award of the NetJets® prize, raising more funds for the NSLM.

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Manuel H. Johnson; Douglas Clarke, NetJets; Ambassador Sir Peter John Westmacott

Johnson presented the event Honorary Chairman, His Excellency The Ambassador of the United Kingdom Sir Peter John Westmacott. The Ambassador then introduced Jeremy Cowdrey who talked about the genesis of the film and his trek to an NSLM symposium on Munnings in 2008.

Virginia Fout, V Productions, LLC, California, orchestrated the dinner and movie. A member of the Fout Middleburg family, Virginia is an event producer who also worked on the NSLM gala in 2011 when the new museum building was opened. Event development and marketing was handled by The Webster Group, Washington, D.C. which also did the NSLM Polo event 2012.

Plans for the film distribution in the United States have not been released but the schedule will be posted as soon as it is available on www.nsl.org.

The exhibitions are free and open to public:

Munnings: Out in the Open, Museum, April 24 – September 15, 2013

Sir Alfred Munnings in Print, Library, April 24 – August 1, 2013



Photo 10 Robin and Gerry Parsky



Photo 11 Lynn Wylie, Luciana and Robert Duvall

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Captions: Photos by Saskia Paulussen Photography, LLC, courtesy of the National Sporting Library & Museum.

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The National Sporting Library & Museum is dedicated to preserving, promoting and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European fine animal and sporting art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.

Admission: free.

Library Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

Web site: www.nsl.org

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