

Mary Gertrude Elizabeth Spencer Stanhope (1857-1944)

Brief biography

The daughter of Walter Spencer Stanhope (1827-1911) of Cannon Hall and niece of the Pre-Raphaelite artist John Roddam Spencer Stanhope, Gertrude seems to have worked closely with her uncle. She was baptised on 18th October 1857 in Cawthorne and visited Cannon Hall on many occasions. There is a small painting of her as a child, by her uncle in this exhibition.

Thought to be responsible for the pulpit panels at Christ Church Isle of Dogs (photograph shown in the Churches and Art section of the exhibition), Gertrude was also a sculptor. Three of her works are now at Cannon Hall : "Pan", "Orpheus" and female bronze. Pan may have been exhibited in 1897 at the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts where it was for sale at £53.

Gertrude also exhibited at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Manchester Art Gallery and the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

Pan is shown in the exhibition in the Portraiture section, together with a female bronze recently attributed to her from the Victoria Jubilee Museum, Cawthorne.

Gertrude spent the greater part of her life in Italy, dying in October 1944 in Florence unmarried. She left a bequest to the Royal Marsden Hospital and to the Holy Trinity Church, Florence, a church very much associated with Roddam Spencer Stanhope and the Hull born architect and designer G.F. Bodley.

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