Works being shown in a major new exhibition in Poland show how Europe continues to play an important part in the formation of 21st Century British painting

A major new exhibition taking place in Gdansk, Poland, in March will show just how vital Europe has been to the British painting tradition.

"Made in Britain" consists of 82 works by painters based all over the UK, which form part of the Priseman Seabrook Collection of 21st Century British Painting. The collection includes works by the likes of Tracey Emin and David Hockney as well Susan Gunn, European Sovereign Painters Prize winner, and John Moores Prize winner, Nicholas Middleton.
It was set up by Robert Priseman, an internationally acclaimed artist in his own right, who wanted to do something to promote the art of painting.

Robert says: "In 2014, I came to realise that many of this new wave of British painters had yet to be collected with the same geographical and chronological focus of their predecessors and foreign contemporaries. So, with the help of my wife, I began the process of bringing together a body of work by artists which followed the very simple criteria of being painting produced after the year 2000 within the British Isles."

So far, the couple have acquired more than 120 paintings from over 100 artists, which has now become the very first collection of art dedicated to 21st century British painting in the UK.
Robert says: "The idea was to build up a collection of work that could then be offered up to galleries and museums all around the country. It's basically a co-operative of artists to promote painting. "What's been great is having the well-known works beside lesser known artists because it has given them exposure in lots of new places where they might not necessarily have had it before. "Britain is a major hub for painting and in Hackney we have the largest collection of painters in the whole of Europe. I think that's something that should be shouted about."

It's been a labour of love for Robert who has already staged a number of exhibitions in China with the collection and hopes this latest show in Poland will lead to more across Europe.
He says: "The collection has enabled us to uncover a number of significant themes, one of which is when we look to the past, we notice how many of the greatest painters who practiced in the UK were born abroad, including Holbein, Freud and Auerbach who were born in Germany, Bacon who was from Ireland, Kitaj the USA and Rego who was born in Portugal. "Indeed, it is this international influence which has probably helped create such a vibrant tradition in the genre in Britain.

“In the 21st century we see this strand of internationalism continuing in British painting and being signified in the collection by Monica Metsers who was born in New Zealand, Claudia Böse, Silvie Jacobi and Marius von Brasch who were born in Germany, Jules Clarke who was born in New York, Julie Umerle in Connecticut, Ehryn Torrell in Canada and Alison Pilkington who is from Ireland.”

Made in Britain – 82 Painters of the 21st Century
The National Museum, Gdansk, Poland.
March 14 to June 2.
Curated by Robert Priseman, Anna McNay, Małgorzata Taraszkiewicz-Zwolicka & Małgorzata Ruszkowska-Macur

List of painters taking part in the exhibition:
David Ainley; Iain Andrews; Amanda Ansell; Louis Appleby; Richard Baker; Karl Bielik; Claudia Böse; John Brennan; Julian Brown; Simon Burton; Ruth Calland; Emma Cameron; Simon Carter; Maria Chevska; Jules Clarke; Wayne Clough; Ben Coode-Adams; Ben Cove; Lucy Cox; Andrew Crane; Pen Dalton; Alan Davie; Jeffrey Dennis; Lisa Denyer; Sam Douglas; Annabel Dover; Natalie Dowse; Fiona Eastwood; Nathan Eastwood; Tracey Emin; Geraint Evans; Paul Galyer; Pippa Gatty; Terry Greene; Susan Gunn; Susie Hamilton; Alex Hanna; David Hockney; Marguerite Horner; Barbara Howey; Phil Illingworth; Linda Ingham; Silvie Jacobi; Kelly Jayne; Matthew Krishanu; Bryan Lavelle; Andrew Litten; Cathy Lomax; Paula MacArthur; David Manley; Enzo Marra; Monica Metsers; Nicholas Middleton; Andrew Munoz; Keith Murdoch; Paul Newman; Stephen Newton; Gideon Pain; Andrew Parkinson; Mandy Payne; Charley Peters; Ruth Philo; Alison Pilkington; Narbi Price; Robert Priseman; Freya Purdue; James Quin; Greg Rook; Katherine Russell; Stephen Snoddy; Ben Snowden; David Sullivan; Harvey Taylor; Molly Thomson; Ehryn Torrell; Judith Tucker; Philip Tyler; Julie Umerle; Marius von Brasch; Mary Webb; Sean Williams; Fionn Wilson.

Catalogue available