



Mary Gaskell Gillick nee Tutin 1881-1965

Sculptress

Mary was born at Nottingham (Gregory Boulevard) the daughter of Thomas Tutin a builder. She was educated at Nottingham High School for Girls, and then studied at Nottingham School of Art 1898 - 1902 taking up sculpture and here she met Ernest Gillick, her future husband whom she married in 1905. They were contemporaries of Laura and Harold Knight and remained friends throughout their lives. She became a student at the Royal College of Art, London, (1902-1904) and moved to London and set up a studio in Chelsea with her husband. She was a highly successful sculptor exhibiting regularly at the Royal Academy. Her lead garden sculpture of Adam was displayed in 1933 and Eve the following year – they were bought by Charles Boot of Henry Boot Construction for his home Thornbridge Hall in Derbyshire. Although the plaster casts exist in the Gillick estate the whereabouts of the originals are unknown.

In 1952 aged 71 overcoming competition from 16 other applicants, she was awarded a very special commission and worked with the Royal Mint on designs for new coinage. She achieved this while suffering poor health and coming to terms with her husband's death in 1951. Her design of an uncrowned Queen Elizabeth II was selected by the Queen and was used from 1953 -1967 on coins throughout the UK, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Ceylon, and Southern Rhodesia. In 1968 she produced a joint portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip which also was widely used on commemorative medals. She was appointed OBE in the 1953 Coronation Honours. A cameo of Gillick's effigy of the Queen has been used on British commemorative stamps since 1966 and is still used for Maundy money. Mary died at the Elizabeth Garrett Hospital in London and left £20471