



Salome Estorick nee Dessau 1920-1989

RAF Sergeant, inventor of stretch lace, art collector

Salome was the daughter of Regina and Henry Dessau, a German Jewish refugee family who left Leipzig in 1932 and became a textile manufacturer in Nottingham which was one of the main suppliers of underwear to M & S. She attended Nottingham Girls High School followed by a Swiss finishing school and the Reimann art school in London where she studied under Leonard Rosoman. Salome served as a sergeant in RAF during WW2, decoding German signals and interrogating German Prisoners of War. After the war Salome worked as a textile designer and is credited with inventing stretch lace; she was employed by Marks & Spencer which was a customer of her father's business. After the war she met Eric Estorick an American sociologist, and writer, on QE2 liner and they married in October 1947 in Nottingham. On honeymoon in Switzerland they developed a passion for Italian Art and visited Milan and bought hundreds of drawings from the studio of Mario Sironi. Together with her husband they travelled often to Italy in the late 1940's and 1950's and bought Italian art which went on to form the Estorick Collection of modern Italian Art in London. Although Eric is seen as the art dealer and collector Salome was fully involved and it was her money which financed the collection. In 1960 they opened the Grosvenor Gallery in London. The Tate was granted long term loan of key works between 1966-1975 when the Estorick's went to live in Barbados. They had 2 children Michael and Isobel. Six months prior to Eric's death, in 1993 he set up the Eric and Salome Estorick Foundation, to which the collection was donated. Michael is chair of the foundation and in 1994 a Georgian house at 39a Canonbury Square was purchased to house the works. Initially renovated with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and again refurbished in 2016 to improve access, enlarge the bookshop and extend the café. After her death in 1994 she helped establish a Hillel House at Nottingham University – ie kosher accommodation for Jewish students ???????.