

Oriel Gelf **Glynn Vivian** Art Gallery

Winifred Coombe Tennant **A Life Through Art**

Main Gallery and Room 1
13 December 2008 - 15 February 2009



An exhibition of works from the collection of Winifred Coombe Tennant, one of Wales' most significant art patrons of the twentieth century. The exhibition is curated by Peter Lord and includes works by Evan Walters, Kyffin Williams, Gwen John and John Elwyn from both private and public collections.

A touring exhibition by the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Winifred Coombe Tennant was an extraordinary woman. She was a suffragette, political activist and collector of art: her life is revealed in the exhibition.

Winifred's mother was Welsh and there were close family connections to Swansea, but she grew up mostly in France and Italy. Winifred moved back to Wales when she married Charles Coombe Tennant in 1895 and settled in the Neath Valley.

Artists from nearby mining villages produced work that Winifred did so much to promote, often in collaboration with William Grant Murray former Curator of the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery.

She was a feminist who campaigned for women's suffrage from before the Great War, and became involved in party politics through her relationship with the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

Winifred stood for parliament in 1922 but did not get in, a fact which she regretted all her life. This led in part to the redirection of her attention toward the support of young Welsh painters.

After 1931, she moved to London and became the official buyer for the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, acquiring works by Cedric Morris, Morland Lewis, Augustus John and Gwen John - including her now celebrated portrait, *The Nun*.

Image: Evan Walters, *Dominoes (Mrs. Coombe Tennant and Her Sons, Alexander and Henry)*, 1920, Oil on canvas, City and County of Swansea, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Collection