

Estorick Collection
of modern italian art

Antonio Calderara A Certain Light

18 September – 22 December 2024

Antonio Calderara A Certain Light

Antonio Calderara (1903-1978) is renowned for his delicate and exquisitely balanced abstract imagery which, in its restraint and subtlety, has affinities with the work of Giorgio Morandi. He lived and worked around Lake Orta in the north of Italy — a landscape that offered him constant inspiration and which was inextricably linked with the character and development of his art.

Beginning his career during the 1920s, he moved from an expressive figurative style to that heightened or 'magic' form of realism explored by many artists in Italy during the inter-war years — his paintings of the 1930s already hinting at the subsequent direction his art would take in their precision and fascination with atmospheric effects. By the late 1950s, he had refined and distilled his depictions of the landscape to essential, geometric shapes, creating images pervaded by silence and suffused with light that teetered on the brink of abstraction. From 1959, his works eliminated all references to the objective world, yet continued to explore the same harmonious formal relationships as before.

With these later paintings, Calderara proved himself to be an outward-looking artist whose imagery was attuned to contemporary developments in the field of abstraction, not only in Europe but also in the United States, having points of contact with the work of figures such as Josef Albers, Agnes Martin and Ad Reinhardt.



This exhibition, organised in collaboration with the Fondazione Antonio e Carmela Calderara and Lisson Gallery, comprises some 50 contemplative and poetic works spanning the artist's entire career, and is the first museum exhibition to be dedicated to his paintings in Britain.

Images, from top: *Untitled (The Market Square in Orta)*, 1929, private collection, Milan; *Painting – Winter (Snow in Vaccigolo)*, 1957-58, Fondazione Calderara, Vaccigolo; H.M. Schmitt-Siegel, Antonio Calderara, Fondazione Calderara, Vaccigolo.

Cover: *Attraction of White Square into Yellow Rectangle (detail)*, 1965, private collection, Milan.

All artworks by Antonio Calderara.

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Opening times

Monday and Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 11.00 – 18.00
Thursday: 11.00 – 20.00
Friday: 11.00 – 18.00
Saturday: 11.00 – 18.00
Sunday: 12.00 – 17.00

Admission

Adult: £7.50
Concessions: £5.50
National Art Pass: £3.75
Free entry to Estorick members, under 18s and full-time students.

Visit estorickcollection.com to book your tickets in advance.

Caffè Estorick

Enjoy a coffee, a bite to eat or an authentic Italian aperitivo at Caffè Estorick. With a beautiful bright conservatory and walled garden, Caffè Estorick is a sanctuary in the bustling city where you can enjoy an ever-changing menu of Italian dishes during your visit.

Our caffè and galleries are open late until 20.00 on Thursday evenings, so you can take in the exhibition and permanent collection at your own pace and enjoy an aperitivo.

Keep in touch

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