ANNOUNCING “THE BROTHERS ROBINSON”:
THE SECOND EXHIBITION FROM THE NEW HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM IN PINNER
21 January – 26 March 2017

While William Heath Robinson (1872-1944) achieved world renown as an artist, illustrator and cartoonist, his two brothers Tom and Charles were also prodigiously talented and acclaimed illustrators. As part of the Special Exhibition programme in this brand-new custom-built museum inspired by and dedicated to older brother William, we are delighted to announce a new exhibition launching on 21 January and bringing together the work of all three brothers.

Curated by Robinson family descendant Peter Higginson, who chairs the William Heath Robinson Trust, this exhibition will run until 26 March and showcases some 60 pieces of the brothers’ original artwork for book and magazine illustration - many of them exhibited here for the first time.

It will also include examples of books the brothers illustrated.

This special exhibition not only reveals the sheer quality and imaginative range of each of the brothers’ work, it also considers how questions of family, brotherhood, and collaboration played a crucial part in their artistic development.
There was little sibling rivalry at play: while each artist would follow his own particular direction, often their work was to share common themes, such as fantasyland, children and the ‘far away’.

Peter Higginson says: “Tom, Charles and Will were like a family dynamo of creativity who were fortunate to be present at one of the most exciting moments in the history of illustration. They admired and respected each other profoundly. Never a cruel word was spoken. Effectively, this was to result in a continual nurturing of each other’s individual talents.”

With the brothers all living near each other in the Pinner and Hatch End areas, a favourite pastime was setting off to walk in the surrounding countryside to a local hostelry; the Crown in Stanmore was a favourite and the Queen’s Head in Pinner also featured in popular places to stop. Other friends and artists came to join them, and soon the ‘The Loyal Federation of Frothfinders’ was founded. To complement the exhibition, the museum is launching a special locally-brewed Frothfinders ale that will be available in the museum shop during February.

During the exhibition, the museum will open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm. For more details of all museum activities, or to organise group visits, please see the museum web site heathrobinsonmuseum.org.
Notes to Editors

heathrobinsonmuseum.org

The first purpose-built museum in Greater London for over 40 years, dedicated to showcasing the work of the world-renowned artist, illustrator, humorist and social commentator William Heath Robinson (1872-1944), was declared officially open on 15 October 2016 at a ceremony attended by hundreds of people in Pinner Memorial Park, north-west London.

Heath Robinson lived in Pinner from 1908-18, some of the most productive years of his life.

The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust is a registered charity which restored West House in Pinner Memorial Park for community use. The Trust is a partnership between local Pinner people and the William Heath Robinson Trust, custodians of the artist’s work.

To develop the new Museum, Trustees received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £1.3m.

A significant addition to the national arts, educational and cultural landscape, this project is delivering:

- A permanent home for the Heath Robinson collection of original artwork and other artefacts
- The only museum dedicated to Heath Robinson, hosting the largest collection of his original works
- In addition to the permanent exhibition, a rolling programme of special themed exhibitions
- For schools, colleges and people of all ages, a comprehensive programme of formal and informal learning: thought-provoking and entertaining, reflecting the style of the man himself.

Donations are welcome on https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/heathrobinsonmuseum

Background to the William Heath Robinson Trust

When Heath Robinson’s daughter Joan died, her husband wanted her collection of her father’s work to be kept in public ownership. As a result the William Heath Robinson Trust was formed in 1992.

The original collection included about 500 pieces of original art work together with an archive of letters, association copies and special editions of the books that he illustrated, proof prints, advertising booklets and ephemera.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Art Fund grant-aided the William Heath Robinson Trust in 2015 to purchase some 400 additional important works for the Museum, bringing the collection to nearly 1,000. It is the only substantial collection of the artist’s work in public ownership.

Use of icons and images

A range of authorised Heath Robinson images are available in jpg format. Please talk to any of our media team below about your requirements.

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