

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Annual Report and Accounts**

**year ended 31 March 1999**



**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**General Information**

**Administrative office**

126 Albert Street,  
London NW1 7NE

**Solicitors**

Paisner & Co,  
Bouverie House,  
154 Fleet Street,  
London EC4A 2DQ

**Auditors**

Blick Rothenberg,  
12 York Gate,  
Regent's Park,  
London NW1 4QS

**Bankers**

Midland Bank plc,  
31 Euston Road,  
London NW1 2ST

COIF Charity Funds,  
St Alphage House,  
2 Fore Street,  
London EC2Y 5AQ

**Charity Number**

280389

**Company Number**

1488690

## Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)

### Chairman's Statement

At the time of preparing this report, the Ben Uri Art Society is still seeking suitable permanent premises for the Gallery. In the meantime, we continue with our programme of events in limited display space on the ground floor at 126 Albert Street, London NW1, where we installed a new hanging system earlier in the year.

Our Director, Jo Velleman, has worked the entire year without office assistance, apart from the enthusiastic support of Ben Whine, who has worked for her one day a week for the last two years, on a voluntary basis for work experience. Ben has now left us to join the Tate Gallery in a full-time post. We wish him every success and thank him for all he has done for us. He has promised to come back to help us with our next Picture Fair, and will, I know, continue to show a keen interest in and support for the development of the Ben Uri.

Because of the vast amount of time which Jo has spent seeking new premises, the Ben Uri is currently concentrating on periodic exhibitions, surrounded by a series of complementary events, forming mini "festivals" and building up good working relationships with other cultural and educational organisations, rather than holding a continuous programme of exhibitions this year.

In February, in addition to our successful annual *Picture Fair*, where our guest was the effervescent Clive Lawton, we supported an exhibition of oils and pastels by *Patricia Smouha Espir* at the Sheridan Russell Paintings in Hospitals Gallery in central London.

Patricia made a substantial donation to the Ben Uri to cover the cost of re-cataloguing and indexing our ever-expanding library of books on Jewish art and artists, and our extensive collection of catalogues of worldwide exhibitions by Jewish artists. This work is now nearly complete and provides a valuable research resource for students, teachers, art historians and for the community. It is also assisting us in preparing a complete schedule of exhibitions held by the Ben Uri Art Society.

Sadly, Patricia died in March. We miss her vitality and sense of fun, but are glad to have had the chance to work with her. A few days before Patricia died, we also learnt the sad news of the death of our previous Joint Treasurer, David Shaw. David was a true gentleman, and a wonderful supporter of and adviser to the Ben Uri, and we are much the poorer for his passing.

In March, we hosted "*The Legends of the Baal Shem Tov*" - a series of 15 stone lithographs by the Hungarian/Swedish artist Ferenc Flamm. The exhibition was extremely well received and was also a commercial success for us. It is now travelling to various other venues, before coming back to the Ben Uri for another short showing at the end of the year, en route back to Sweden. Whilst the exhibition was on, we held several complementary events including concerts and lectures, and co-hosted a *lecture series* arranged in co-operation with SPIRO Ark.

In March, too, we hurriedly moved our Collection in 24 hours from professional storage in Whetstone, to Martinspeed Limited near the Tate Gallery, when we learned that the original storers were closing down their business.

In April we held an evening sponsored by Laurie Lowenthal in memory of his dear late wife, Cecily, to formally (and gratefully) receive four works by *Bernard Meninsky* into our Collection. These were

## **Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

### **Chairman's Statement (continued)**

donated by the Contemporary Art Society in memory of Cecily Lowenthal. We are now working with CAS towards a major Meninsky exhibition.

From May to the end of August, we showed a selection of *work by Israeli artists* from our Collection. ORT ran a programme bringing several hundred under-privileged Israeli children to London throughout that period, and we were delighted to welcome them with familiar scenes and names.

In June we received a legacy from the will of the late Wilfred Morris Ross, which we acknowledge with gratitude. We also gratefully acknowledge donations from Marks & Spencer plc and the Kessler Foundation during the course of the year.

In early July we held a one-day seminar on fund-raising and marketing for a small group of people, to learn how to put the Ben Uri right back on the map as we aim to develop our proposed new home.

Later in July we were saddened by the loss of two of our longest-standing and hardest-serving members of the Ben Uri - Harry Blacker and Dr Manfred Altman. Both gentlemen have given many years of service to us and we will miss their enthusiasm and contributions. Manfred will be remembered and revered particularly for his outstanding intellect and for the breadth and depth of his knowledge and love of Judaism and Jewish culture. The memory of Harry's enlightened and highly developed sense of humour and generosity of spirit will uplift us for many years to come.

On a happier note, during the year we were delighted to welcome both Norman Rosenthal, Exhibitions Secretary at the Royal Academy and Laurie Lowenthal, who was one of the signatories to our original lease at Dean Street, to join the list of Patrons of the Ben Uri.

We have received some excellent publicity throughout the year, gradually raising awareness of the Ben Uri at a time when our capacity for exhibitions is limited. This has included providing images for L'Eylah, the magazine of Jews College, and the magazines of the Union of Jewish Students and of NOAM. A two page article in Arts and Crafts Magazine resulted in approximately 200 requests from non-Jewish schools for our Teachers Pack and slides and our Research Packs. We continue to distribute these as part of our education programme.

We are continuing to finance nearly a quarter of our expenditure for the year out of our capital as a result of our income being insufficient to cover our expenditure.

Income for the year was £57,000 in comparison with £69,000 last year, a reduction of £12,000. The main reason for the decrease was a decline of £16,000 due to lower donations. Income from exhibitions and catalogues increased this year to over £11,000 in comparison with about £5,000 last year. Income from the Picture Fair was down somewhat as a result of reduced advertising income.

Costs were rigorously controlled and showed a decline of £24,000 on last year. This was attributable to non-recurring costs in 1998 in connection with the move of the gallery out of Dean Street and also to lower levels of staffing costs this year.

On a like for like basis excluding income whose use is restricted, the Society had a deficit for the year of £19,000 in comparison with the £37,000 incurred last year.

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Chairman's Statement (continued)**

The financial position of the Society remains sound. Our assets principally comprise our endowment fund investments (whose value increased during the year as a result of the favourable Stock Market) and liquid deposits (substantially the unspent balance of the proceeds of sale of the Dean Street gallery). The Council continues to keep the financial position under careful review and is satisfied that the Society can continue to operate on its present basis despite the continuing deficits incurred. A fundraising programme and development plan are under active consideration.



Leslie D Michaels

Chairman

October 1999

## **Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

### **Report of the Council of Management for the Year Ended 31 March 1999**

#### **Introduction**

The members of the Council of Management (in their capacity as Trustees and Directors) present their report on the affairs of the Society together with the financial statements and the report of the auditors for the year ended 31 March 1999.

#### **The activities of the Society**

The Ben Uri Art Society was founded in 1915 and named after Bezalel Ben Uri, the craftsman-builder of the Tabernacle, who is mentioned in Exodus 31.

The Society has been at the heart of the artistic and cultural life of Anglo Jewry since its foundation *and its activities during the year continued to be concerned with the promotion of Jewish art as a fundamental part of the Jewish cultural heritage.* With more than eight hundred paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints, the Ben Uri Art Society holds one of the most prominent Jewish art collections in Europe.

The Society is a registered member of the Museum and Galleries Commission and provides a showcase for exhibitions of contemporary art as well as for its permanent collection. The collection includes works by the foremost Jewish artists of this century including David Bomberg, Mark Gertler, Jacob Epstein, Leon Kossoff, Frank Auerbach and RB Kitaj.

The collection is also used as a vital source of information for students researching the work of Jewish artists. *The Society provides a number of facilities for assisting teachers, students and researchers, promoting understanding of both the rich culture and artistic diversity of Jewish artists.*

A review of the progress for the year and the financial report for the year are included in the Chairman's Statement (on pages 2 to 4).

#### **Structure and corporate governance**

The Ben Uri Art Society is incorporated, in England & Wales, as a company whose liability is limited by guarantee and with the status of a registered charity.

The affairs of the Society are directed by the Council of Management presently comprising nineteen members all of whom are formally appointed as directors of the Society. The Council is involved in the endorsement of policy and in monitoring its implementation. The Council meets approximately six times a year.

The Members of Council during the year were:

Leslie Michaels - Chair

Dr Manfred Altman

Andrew Balcombe (appointed January 1999)

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Report of the Council of Management for the Year Ended 31 March 1999 (continued)**

Andrew Coleman - Hon Treasurer  
David Glasser  
Lewis Goodman OBE  
Irving Grose  
David Kut  
Sydney Levinson  
Robert Lewin  
Estelle Lovat  
Laurie Lowenthal  
Lois Peltz  
Michael Posen  
Stephen Rosenberg  
Gerald Rothman - Hon Secretary  
David Shaw (died 22 March 1999)  
Joanne Shaw  
Alice Schwab

Responsibility for the day to day activities of the Society lies with the Director, a remunerated officer of the Society.

**Statement of the Council of Management's responsibilities**

Regulations require the Council to acknowledge their responsibilities in the following statement:

Charity and company law requires the Council (in their capacity as Trustees and Directors) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business.

The Council has responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. It also has responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Report of the Council of Management for the Year Ended 31 March 1999 (continued)**

**Year 2000 compliance**

Many computer and digital storage systems express dates using the last two digits of the year and thus will require modification or replacement to accommodate the year 2000 and beyond in order to avoid malfunction and resulting commercial disruption. The Council is aware of the Year 2000 issue and will continue to monitor it carefully. Given the complexity of the problem, it is not possible for any organisation to guarantee that no Year 2000 problem will occur because at least some level of problem might arise. Nevertheless, the Council is presently not aware of any further action that the Society might take to ensure that it is Year 2000 compliant.

**Auditors**

In accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution proposing the reappointment of Blick Rothenberg as auditors of the Society will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Council of Management

Gerald Rothman,



Secretary

October 1999



## **Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

### **Auditors' report**

We have audited the financial statements on pages 9 to 16 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 12 to 13.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Council of Management and Auditors**

As described on page 6 the Council of Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Council of Management in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs at 31 March 1999 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Blick Rothenberg



Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor

12 York Gate,  
Regent's Park,  
London  
NW1 4QS

5 November  
October 1999

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 1999**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	1999 Total £	1998 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Exhibitions & catalogues		11,331	-	-	11,331	4,969
Subscriptions, donations & sundry income		11,475	1,643	-	13,118	29,105
Fund raising events (net)	2	10,928	-	-	10,928	12,376
Interest & investment income	3	13,903	-	7,862	21,765	22,916
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>47,637</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>7,862</b>	<b>57,142</b>	<b>69,366</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>						
Artistic programme		50,931	-	-	50,931	64,962
<i>Other expenditure</i>						
Fund-raising & marketing		14,458	-	-	14,458	21,196
Management and administration		8,881	-	-	8,881	12,272
Interest payable		-	-	-	-	143
<b>Total resources expended</b>	4	<b>74,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,270</b>	<b>98,573</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>						
		(26,633)	1,643	7,862	(17,128)	(29,207)
Transfers between funds		7,862	-	(7,862)	-	-
<b>Net movement of resources before revaluation</b>		<b>(18,771)</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(17,128)</b>	<b>(29,207)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Unrealised gain on investment assets		-	-	9,263	9,263	10,886
<b>Net movement of funds</b>		<b>(18,771)</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>9,263</b>	<b>(7,865)</b>	<b>(18,321)</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<b>211,177</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>120,383</b>	<b>339,060</b>	<b>357,381</b>
Net movement for the year - as above		(18,771)	1,643	9,263	(7,865)	(18,321)
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<b>192,406</b>	<b>9,143</b>	<b>129,646</b>	<b>331,195</b>	<b>339,060</b>

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

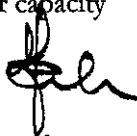
**Balance sheet at 31 March 1999**

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	6	<u>129,646</u>	<u>120,383</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	7	6,781	139
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>199,270</u>	<u>223,442</u>
		206,051	223,581
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year</b>	8	4,502	4,904
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>201,549</u>	<u>218,677</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>331,195</u>	<u>339,060</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted		192,406	211,177
Restricted		9,143	7,500
Endowment		<u>129,646</u>	<u>120,383</u>
	9	<u>331,195</u>	<u>339,060</u>

Approved by the Trustees in their capacity  
as directors on October 1999

LD Michaels – Chairman

AM Coleman – Treasurer




**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 1999**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	1999 Total	1998 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus before transfers</b>	(26,633)	1,643	7,862	(17,128)	(29,207)
Adjustment of net (deficit)/surplus onto cash flow basis(see note below)	(20,947)	-	(7,862)	(28,809)	31,037
<b>Cash in/(out) flow from operating activities</b>	(47,580)	1,643	-	(45,937)	1,830
<b>Returns on investment and servicing of finance</b>					
Investment income received	13,903	-	7,862	21,765	22,916
Interest paid		-	-		(143)
<b>Transfers</b>	7,862	-	(7,862)	-	-
<b>Increase/decrease in cash (see note below)</b>	(25,815)	1,643	-	(24,172)	24,603

**Notes**

*Adjustment of net (deficit)/ surplus onto cash flow basis*

Investment income receivable	(13,903)	-	(7,862)	(21,765)	(22,916)
Interest payable	-	-	-	-	143
Movement in debtors	(6,642)	-	-	(6,642)	51,744
Movement in creditors	(402)	-	-	(402)	2,066
	(20,947)	-	(7,862)	(28,809)	31,037

*Changes in net liquid funds during the year*

Opening net liquid funds	215,942	7,500	-	223,442	198,839
Increase/decrease in cash as above	(25,815)	1,643	-	(24,172)	24,603
Closing net liquid funds	190,127	9,143		199,270	223,442

## **Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999**

#### **1. Accounting policies**

##### *a Basis of accounting*

Except that investments are stated at market value, the financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They have been prepared in accordance with Company Law and applicable accounting standards (including of the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities) and on a going concern basis.

##### *b Income and expenditure*

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The results of exhibitions and fund raising events are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which the event takes place. Costs incurred and income received in connection with forthcoming events are deferred at the balance sheet date. If a decision is taken not to proceed with an event, the costs are written off.

The Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities requires that costs be allocated between direct charitable expenditure and other expenditure. For those categories of expenditure where direct attribution is not applicable, apportionment has been applied on the basis of the time estimated to have been devoted to each activity.

Direct charitable expenditure includes the costs of maintaining the permanent collection and of mounting exhibitions and takes into account an appropriate proportion of overhead costs.

##### *c Fund accounting*

Unrestricted funds can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. Restricted funds comprise contributions received for the building fund. The endowment fund is a capital fund only the income from which can be spent. Income from the endowment fund can be used for any aspect of the Society's work.

##### *d Investments*

Investments are stated at market value. Changes in market value are allocated to the Fund to which the investments are attributed.

##### *e Works of art*

Works of art consist of paintings, sculptures and prints acquired by the Society by donation and bequest. Works are held for historical, artistic and educational reasons and not as an asset for realisation. For these reasons it is considered inappropriate to value them on the balance sheet.

# Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999 (continued)

### *f Cash flow statement*

The Society has presented a cash flow statement although not required to do so by Financial Reporting Standards. The format for the cash flow statement is consistent with that required by Financial Reporting Standards except that additional information has been presented showing the cash flow for each Fund in addition to the total.

### 2. Fund raising events

	1999	1998
	£	£
Gross income	13,368	14,871
Expenditure	2,440	2,495
Net income from fund raising events	<u>10,928</u>	<u>12,376</u>

### 3. Interest and investment income

	1999	1998
	£	£
Income from UK listed investments	7,862	8,149
Bank and other interest	13,903	14,767
	<u>21,765</u>	<u>22,916</u>

### 4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Personnel Costs	Other Costs	Total 1999	Total 1998
	£	£	£	£
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>				
Artistic programme	24,268	26,663	50,931	64,962
<i>Other expenditure</i>				
Fund raising & marketing	10,111	4,347	14,458	21,196
Management & administration	6,068	2,813	8,881	12,272
	<u>40,447</u>	<u>33,823</u>	<u>74,270</u>	<u>98,430</u>
Interest payable			-	143
Total resources expended			<u>74,270</u>	<u>98,573</u>

The Society employs one member of staff (1998: 2).

Audit fees for the year were £1,175 (1997: £1,179).

## **Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999 (continued)**

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by the Members of Council. The benefit is not reflected in these accounts since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

#### **5. Transactions with Members of Council**

No director or person defined by Accounting Standards as "related to them" received any remuneration for services as a director or in a management capacity during the year

No amounts were paid in reimbursement of any expenses incurred on behalf of the Society

#### **6. Investments**

	1999 £	1998 £
<u>UK listed investments</u>		
Opening balance at market value	120,383	109,497
Gain on revaluation	9,263	10,886
Closing balance at market value	<u>129,646</u>	<u>120,383</u>

Investments comprise income units in a common investment fund constituted under Schemes made by the Charity Commissioners.

The historical cost of the investments is not available.

#### **7. Debtors**

	1999 £	1998 £
Income from exhibitions	4,432	-
Other debtors	2,349	139
	<u>6,781</u>	<u>139</u>

#### **8. Creditors**

Amounts falling due within one year

	1998 £	1998 £
Accruals and deferred income	4,502	3,969
Social security & other taxes	-	935
	<u>4,502</u>	<u>4,904</u>

**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999 (continued)**

**9. Analysis of net assets between funds**

Fund balances at 31 March 1999 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total £
Investments	-	-	129,646	129,646
Debtors	6,781	-	-	6,781
Cash	190,127	9,143	-	199,270
Creditors	(4,502)	-	-	(4,502)
	<u>192,406</u>	<u>9,143</u>	<u>129,646</u>	<u>331,195</u>

**10. Statutory and technical accounting information**

This note contains information required to comply with statutory and technical accounting pronouncements:

*(i) In relation to the statement of financial activities*

None of the Society's activities was acquired or discontinued during the current or previous years. Accordingly all of the Society's results relate to continuing operations.

Save as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities, the Society has no recognised gains and losses. Accordingly a statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year would be the same as the statement of financial activities and has not been presented.

The summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 1999 is as follows:

	1999 £	1998 £
Income from continuing operations	51,720	63,712
Expenditure from continuing operations	76,710	101,068
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers	(24,990)	(37,356)
Transfers from endowment fund	7,862	8,149
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	<u>(17,128)</u>	<u>(29,207)</u>

Income and expenditure from continuing operations are the gross amounts relating to restricted and unrestricted funds

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities and accompanying notes which provide full information on the movements during the year on all the funds of the Society.



**Ben Uri Art Society Limited (by guarantee)**

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999 (continued)**

No taxation is payable as the Society is a registered charity and accordingly is entitled to exemption from taxation on its charitable activities under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

*(ii) Balance sheet*

There are no pension or other contingencies at 31 March 1999 and 1998. At 31 March 1999 the Society had a commitment to pay £4, 667 within 12 months under a licence to occupy land and buildings.