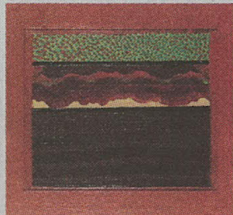






**exhibitions**

◀ Meredith Frampton, portrait of Marguerite Kelsey (1928), part of True to Life

◀ (Far left, top) Howard Hodgkin, Bombay Sunset (1972-73)

◀ (Far left, bottom) Wyndham Lewis, photographed by George Charles Beresford (1917)

**Five of the best****1 True to Life**

British art has a penchant for painting reality. From John Constable to Lucian Freud, you could even claim that it's the national genius. This exhibition explores a much less well-known generation of meticulous picture makers who portrayed British life between the world wars. It includes the spookily precise portraits of Meredith Frampton, whose brittle, icy pictures of high life slip over into a kind of society surrealism. Other artists include Laura Knight, Winifred Knights and James Cowie.

*Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Sat to 29 Oct*

**2 Howard Hodgkin: Painting India**

This great British artist, who died in March, was a painter of atmospheres and memories. His works often look abstract but each is a sensitive evocation of a place, an event, a mood. Hodgkin painted the places he travelled

to, and one of his favourites was India. The intense colours he found saturate his work. *The Hepworth, Wakefield, Sat to 8 Oct*

**3 Joseph Beuys**

Is there no end to the fascination of Europe's greatest late-20th century artist and the surprises his archives keep revealing? Here Beuys the boxer steps into the ring. Sculpture, evocative photos and film document a 1970s performance in which he took on the role of a fighter in a real boxing match. He dramatises the need to fight for justice in a gentlemanly fashion, showing how art can be political and poetic at the same time. *Waddington Custot Galleries, W1, Fri to 11 Aug*

**4 Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War**

The vorticists were the most aggressive and interesting British avant-garde movement of the early 20th century. Their leader

Lewis, a controversial, bombastic antihero, had some resemblance to Italian futurist poet Marinetti (both shared a liking for early fascism). Yet Lewis was also an imaginative painter and his images of the first world war, in which he served, show a world shattering into fragments and people becoming robots. *Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, to 1 Jan*

**5 Enlightened Princesses**

Three German women, Caroline of Ansbach, Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, and Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, all married into Britain's royal family in the 18th century, reflecting the royals' divided loyalties. Cue an ambitious exhibition about Britain's place in the European Enlightenment, including work by Gainsborough, Zoffany and a new installation by Yinka Shonibare. *Kensington Palace State Apartments, W8, to 12 Nov*

**Jonathan Jones**