

Gill, Eric 1882 - 1940



Arthur Eric Rowton Gill [commonly known as Eric Gill; also known as A.E.R. Gill] was born in Brighton, Sussex on 22 February 1882. He studied at Chichester Technical and Art School in Chichester, England (1898-99), following which he moved to London to be articled to William Douglas Caröe (1857-1938), architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At the same time he enrolled in Edward Johnston's evening classes in lettering at Central School of Arts and Design.

By 1903 he had abandoned architecture in order to concentrate on lettering. In 1907 he moved to Ditchling in Sussex where he helped to establish a semi-monastic craft community. While at Ditchling he took up sculpting in stone. He held his first exhibition in 1911 at Chenil Gallery. Two years later he entered the Roman Catholic Church. His religious convictions were to have a profound influence on his later work as a designer and from 1913-18 he carved fourteen 5 ft. stone panels depicting the 'Stations of the Cross' for Westminster Cathedral. He also took up illustration, producing woodcuts and wood engraving for 'The Devil's Devices', printed by St Dominic's Press at Douglas Pepler's Hampshire House Workshops in 1915.

Gill was a founder member of the Society of Wood Engravers in 1920. In 1924 he moved to Capel-y-ffin, Wales. Here he designed his first two typefaces - Gill Sans and Perpetua, and produced wood engravings for the Golden Cockerel Press. Four years later, in 1928, Gill moved to Pigotts in Buckinghamshire, where in addition to developing his work as an artist, he produced a series of books and pamphlets in which he outlined his personal philosophy and ideas on art.

Gill was elected a member of the Art Workers Guild in 1904 and an Honorary Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (Hon. A.R.I.B.A) in 1935. In 1936 he was conferred with the title Designer for Industry (DI) [from 1937 known

as Royal Designer for Industry (RDI)] by the Royal Society of Art. He died in Hillingdon, Middlesex on 17 November 1940.

Worked in

UK

Works

See:

Historic England [*link below*]

Wikimedia Commons [*link below*]

British Listed Buildings [*link below*]

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- Identifont. Contains examples of fonts designed by Eric Gill
<http://www.identifont.com/show?12W=>
- Artcyclopedia - includes a list of galleries and museums that own examples of Gill's work. http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/gill_eric.html
- The text of 'Written in stone' an article by Fiona MacCarthy from 'The Guardian' 22 September 2006 - one of the most informative sources on Eric Gill
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