PRINCE PAUL TROUBETZKOY - The Belle Epoque Captured in Bronze

21.5 – 27.6.2008

*Prince Paul Troubetzkoy is one of the few geniuses of whom it is not only safe but necessary to speak in superlatives* wrote George Bernard Shaw in the introduction to the artist’s last show 77 years ago. *He is the most astonishing sculptor of modern times*

Paul Troubetzkoy’s fame rests largely on his sculptural portraits of the fashionable personalities of his time, drawn from the cosmopolitan world to which the artist belonged and which he helped to define. Restlessly moving across continents, he observed high society in an age of upheaval, vividly recording wherever he went an elite who chronicled profound historical change.

His bronze of Lady Constance Stewart-Richardson, illustrates this perfectly. This aristocrat gained fame as an athlete and suffragette, and, after attending a performance by Isadora Duncan in 1909 she became an *interpretative* ballerina, adopting Duncan’s radical freely expressive style. He depicted her performing, dancing barefoot and barely clad, for which she was renowned.

Another impressive character of the time, captured by Troubetzkoy is Madame Décori. She hosted one of the most prominent salons in Paris, receiving intellectuals, politicians and journalists. Widely considered to be one of the most fascinating women of her day, she had an affair with the minister Raymond Poincaré and was the talk of Paris. One of the most successful and original innovations in Troubetzkoy’s sculpture is his use of props to create a spatial setting for his figures. The simple device of placing the sitter in a chair has the effect of drawing in the viewer, so much so that we feel as if we too were a part of her salon sharing with her a moment of intimacy.

The exhibition will be comprised of more than 20 works assembled over many years by Edward Horswell, director of the Sladmore Gallery.