

### Four things to see: Expressionism

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Born on 8 July 1867, Käthe Kollwitz was one of the great graphic artists and printmakers of German Expressionism and a powerful advocate for social change. She believed it was her duty to speak out for those who could not about 'the never-ending sufferings heaped mountain-high' and did so through highly emotive imagery.

While the Expressionist movement may seem to have become indelibly linked with Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, many of its lesser players and higher ideals are now beginning to get the attention they deserve. Artists such as Erma Bossi, Marianne Werefkin and Paula Modersohn-Becker, who were recently included in the Royal Academy's 'Making Modernism' exhibition, used the vivid colour palettes and textural brushwork associated with the movement to similarly challenge social expectations and imbue their work with intense feeling.

This week we take a look at some of the key figures of this movement, from Kollwitz to Munch and beyond.



Portrait of N M Seedo (c. 1957), Leon Kossoff. Ben Uri Collection. © Estate of Leon Kossoff.

**Portrait of N M Seedo (c. 1957), Leon Kossoff**  
Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, London

Leon Kossoff was a member of the pioneering School of London, an informal group of painters which included Lucian Freud, Frank Auerbach and Euan Uglow. They were united in their desire to depict the human figure in a way that reflected the trauma of post-war society in Britain. In this work, Kossoff conveys the suffering of the émigrée writer Sonia Husid (1906–85), known by her nom de plume N M Seedo, after her experience of pogroms in Romania.