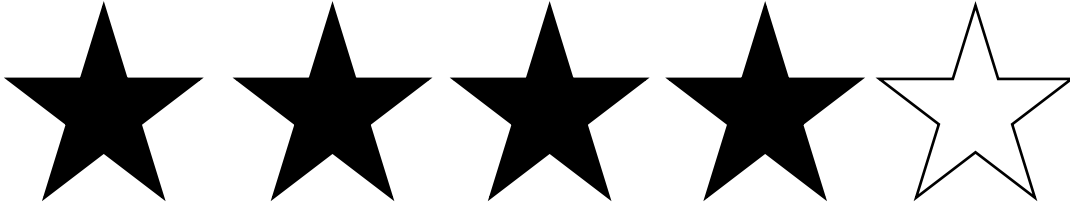


## DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES EXHIBITION

Written by Isma



Overall score – 4/5

The Dreams and Nightmares exhibition has launched and will be showcased up until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at The Higgins Wixamtree gallery. In partnership with Victoria Partridge (The Higgins), Christina Payne – Professor of History and Art at Oxford Brookes University – has helped to organise this event.

In this exhibition chosen from the highlights of the Cecil Higgins Collection, the dreams and nightmares ranged from happy dreams to troubling nightmares, fears and desires being a key part in telling the story of the paintings. The paintings had different themes which included dreamscapes; sublime and spiritual visions; sleepers; spectral images; romantic dreams and daydreams; fairies and witches; manifestations of the unconscious; and nightmares becoming realities.

I had the opportunity to view this exhibition on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and as a young person attending, I found it fascinating. The creation of the different interpretations constructed a vivid image and brought the paintings to life, particularly the nightmare *On Death Part Two, Dead Mother 1898* by artist Max Klinger (from the nightmares become realities section). In the painting, a baby is sitting on top of the mother, who is dead. The baby doesn't think this is a nightmare because in front of them is their mother laying asleep. It's deeply saddening as they just want their mother to wake up. It really makes you **connect** with the picture and the story being told and **really touched my heart**. The black and white painting really hones in on the **loneliness** of the baby child who has no one to turn to. The **blackness** of the woods in the background **traps** the baby from the outside world, where **one lone tree** is used to signify that they are **all alone**.

This exhibition is well worth the visit and in addition there will be gallery tours starting from 6<sup>th</sup> November. There will also be lunchtime lectures with Christina Payne and Victoria Partridge. For further details visit the website:

[http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/exhibitions-1/dreams\\_and\\_nightmares.aspx](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/exhibitions-1/dreams_and_nightmares.aspx)