

PETER LANYON



8 February: Born 'The Red House', Bellbars, St Ives. Son of Herbert Lanyon and Lilian Priscilla Vivian. Both families are connected to Cornish mining.

1930-5

After St Erbyn's Preparatory School, Penzance, attends Clifton College, Bristol. Meets future wife Sheila Browne.

1936

September: Begins 18 months of study at Penzance Art School.

1937

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Borlase Smart by Lanyon 1937

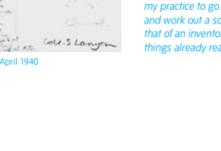
"I remember when I first saw a painting which was very thickly painted and I was so excited with the quality of the thick paint that I went out and smelled it. And it was a painting by Lamorna Birch of bluebellis. I remember distinctly expecting to smell the bluebells."

"I decided with my father that the best thing to do was to go into commercial art. There was no future in anything else but commercial art ... I didn't take any exams whatsoever, in fact I've never taken an examination in painting or drawing."

"South Africa actually had an immense influence on me. I found I suddenly met a country, which was uncultured, a country which was wide open and had no sensibility ..."

"So Nicholson came along twice a week. He would say: 'well, let's put up two pots, just an old jug or something like that and a bowl and see what we can do with them; make them into not like they are but something else, let's draw lines round them, draw lines out from them' and so on. And then perhaps ... 'supposing we put a piece of wood on top of this board and another piece of wood at the bottom. You see what you can do with that.'"

"And so I would find I would have a space in front and so on. This is the way he worked with me, and I think it was first-rate, he made me understand that there were actual plastic values which I'd lost due to my cleverness of looking at the landscape."



Lanyon's Attic Studio 1940

Paints with Adrian Stokes, whom he had met previously. Stokes's book *Colour and Form*, based on a psychoanalytic approach to art, is an influence.

March-June: Visits South Africa and Rhodesia. Solo exhibition Johannesburg.

Travels to Belgium and Holland, visiting World War One battlefields as well as Amsterdam, Bruges, Brussels and Ghent.

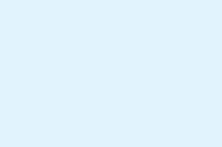
Summer: Attends Leonard Fuller's St Ives School of Painting.

November: Stokes persuades Nicholson to teach PL.



Peter Lanyon Zenor 1936 Oil on canvas

Exterior, Attic Studio, St Ives



April: Travels to Provence where he visits Aix and paints Le Mont Ste Victoire.

May-June: Spends two months at Euston Road School, London.

Adrian Stokes and his wife Margaret Mellis move full time to Little Park, Owles, Carbis Bay. They are joined by Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson. Naum and Miriam Gabo move to 'Faerystones', nearby.

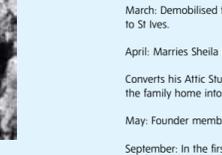
8 March: Joins RAF. Spends war as flight mechanic, developing practical engineering skills. Posted to Uxbridge, Morecambe (Lancashire) and then Hawarden near Chester.

December: Makes a construction with string and piston rings, drawings and coloured-pencil paintings on card.

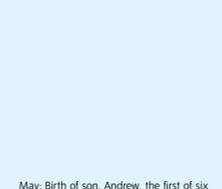


Construction 1941

Wartime, Middle East, 1942-3



Sheila Lanyon



April: Visits Rome.

July: Exhibits in St Ives Society of Artists exhibition that tours England.

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All photographic credits and quote references, can be found in the accompanying exhibition catalogue, Peter Lanyon, available in the bookshop priced £14.95.

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