



ISLINGTON HONOURS ARTIST AND UNLIKELY LOCAL HERO.

The first-ever plaque on a council block will be unveiled at Bevin Court, Cruickshank Street, Islington on September 28 (2pm). It commemorates the maverick artist and unlikely local hero, Cyril Mann (1911-1980), who did some of his finest paintings and sculpture while living there in a tiny flat from 1956 to 1964.

The artist was one of three on a shortlist of 12, awarded the plaque by public vote in the annual People's Plaque competition, sponsored by the Islington History Centre. The scheme recognises "the movers and shakers of the past", who made the borough what it is today. Mann follows in the footsteps of Walter Sickert, honoured in a previous year.

Peter Millican of the King's Place Music Foundation will unveil the plaque.

The artist was in his mid-forties when he moved into Bevin Court. Four years later, in 1960, he was joined by his second wife, Dutch Indonesian Renske van Slooten. Aged 21, she was 28 years his junior and became his model and muse.

Throughout an art career that spanned half a century, Mann bucked the fashion for what he called "abstraction for its own sake", and sought new ways of revitalising figurative art. His 500sq ft flat became a source of inspiration, as it was flooded with light, allowing him to explore the dynamic effects of sunlight in a different way from his predecessors.

The plaque is a dream come true not only for Cyril Mann's widow, Renske, but for Dr Robert Travers, director of Piano Nobile Gallery, who has championed the artist for two decades. Picture shows: Renske holding the plaque, destined for Bevin Court, with works painted there in the background.

-0-

**Exhibition: Cyril Mann - The Bevin Court Years, 1956-1964 is at
Piano Nobile Fine Paintings, 129 Portland Road, London W11 4LW
Sept 18 – Oct 25, Mon-thru-Sat 10.30 to 6pm**

**Also: at the Islington Local History Centre, Finsbury Library, 245, St John Street, London
EC1V 4NB,
September 25 to October 1, see website for opening times/telephone: 020 7527 7988.**

**For further information and images, see: www.cyrilmann.co.uk
or contact: Robert Travers, Piano Nobile Fine Paintings, tel: 020 7229 1099.**



Renske holding the plaque, destined for Bevin Court, with works painted there in the background