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LIVERPOOL AUTUMN ART EXHIBITION.

THE fifty-second Liverpool autumn art exhibition, which is to be formally opened to-day by Sir Martin Conway, the famous art connoisseur, promises to achieve a high level of distinction. In this respect it undoubtedly surpasses other after-war exhibitions, as the Hanging Committee have done their work extremely well, and the 1500 or more pictures assembled in the Walker Art Gallery comprise a number unusually noteworthy. Not only are leading British artists represented by examples which are cosmopolitan in character, but special rooms are devoted to selected works of leading Continental artists, and there is an exceptionally strong contribution from the Liverpool school, whose reputation is now much more than local. Some of the best portraits shown are the work of the latter, as, for instance, that of the Earl of Birkenhead by Mr G. Hall Neale, Sir Henry F. Hibbert and Lady Johnson by Mr Frank Copnall, and those of the present Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool by Mr J. A. A. Berrie.

Sir Luke Fildes, Sir Augustus John, Sir John Lavery, Mr B. Priestman, R.A., and Mr Richard Jack, R.A., each exhibit good representative portraits; and Mr P. A. de Laszlo has been quite successful with his full-length portrait of Viscount Leverhulme in robes.

As usual, Scottish painters are strongly represented, and with works of undoubted excellence Mr James M'Boy's outstanding portrait of Lady Frank calls for notice, and a striking picture is Mr James Kay's "Lusitania in the River Clyde." Mr W. M. Frazer, Mr James Paterson, Mr S. J. Peploe, Mr George Houghton, Mr George Pirie, Mr Gemmell Hutchison, Mr Patrick W. Adam, Mr R. B. Nisbet, Mr Walter G. Grieve, Mr John Duncan, Mr Andrew Douglas, Mr Robert Hope, and Mr Henry Lintott are represented with a delightful variety of studies, which contribute in no small measure to the merit of the exhibition. Mr Fildes Watt has a truly distinctive portrait of Mr W. N. Mitchell amongst other works. Mr W. L. Wyllie's "Blessing the Sea" is a strikingly original depiction of a subject which appeals strongly to the imagination.

Water-colours are more numerous than usual, calling for extra space, and there is also a notable collection of miniatures.