

JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Fun Fair
Clifford Frith

Sold



Description

CLIFFORD FRITH b.1924 English School Fun Fair Oil on board, signed 57 x 76 cms 22 1/2 x 30 inches Overall framed size 70 x 80 cms 27 1/2 x 31 1/2 ins Exhibited: Arts Council of Great Britain Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne "The Lyons Teashops Lithographs: Art in a Time of Austerity 1946-1955" 13th July to 22nd September 2013

Born in London in 1924, Clifford Frith was the grandson of the renowned historical genre painter and depicter of Victorian life William Powell Frith R.A. (1819-1909) famous for such well-known works as "Derby Day", "Ramsgate Sands", "The Railway Station" and "Private View Day at the Royal Academy".

He undertook his artistic training at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts and then at St Martin's School of Art under the instruction of Roland Pitchforth and Victor Pasmore among others at those two establishments and became established as a painter and draughtsman as well as teaching art, returning to work with students at Camberwell and also Goldsmith's College School of Art.

He had started to exhibit regularly at Wildenstein's in New Bond St which was run at the time by Fred Beddington, the brother of Jack Beddington, who was one of the country's leading figures in the advertising world and was the creative director for the Lyons project. The latter had seen Frith's work in the gallery and commissioned him to produce a work for the first series of Lyons's Lithographs which resulted in "Fun Fair", a scene depicting a travelling fair in Harpenden. He was only 23 when he received the commission making him the youngest artist to work on the series and he said of the technical requirements in producing the painting to be turned into a print that: "I really didn't consider the technical implications of lithography" and because he "...knew very little about the process... went ahead and painted the work that I wanted to do". He later recalled that his finished painting "... had a sketch-like quality" and that he was indebted to "... the skill of Chromeworks in the translation that made it successful". He was later commissioned to produce another painting to be used as a print for the third series of Lyons's Lithographs in 1955 and this work was "The River Rother at Rye".

Clifford Frith also exhibited at the Royal Academy and the Redfern Galleries as well as elsewhere and his work was purchased by the Contemporary Art Society. Examples of exhibited works include: "Eirian resting", "The Pearly Lady", "Still Life", "The Thameside, Greenwich" and "The Paragon, Blackheath". Paintings by him held in public institutions and galleries in England include: "Self-portrait" Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, "Boathouse Walk Bridge, Commercial Way", "Saint Giles Church, S...