

Le Concours des Pêcheurs, Paris
CHARLES ERNEST CUNDALL

Sold



Description

CHARLES ERNEST CUNDALL R.A., R.W.S., N.S., NEAC 1890-1971 English School Le Concours des Pêcheurs, Paris Oil on canvas, signed, in a carved wood wash-stained frame 38 x 61 cms 15 x 24 ins Overall framed size 66 x 78 cms 22 x 20¼ ins Exhibited Royal Academy 1951 no.33 Ex collection: Sir Albert Richardson P.R.A.

Charles Cundall was a talented and widely-travelled artist who specialised in panoramic landscapes, town and crowd scenes and portraits in both oil and watercolour and was also a designer and painter of stained glass and pottery.

He was born in Stretford, Lancashire on 6th September 1890 but spent some of his childhood in the Philippines and Australia. His first foray into the artistic world was working as a designer under the instruction of Gordon Forsyth at Pilkington's Pottery Company. He also studied at the Manchester School of Art, winning a scholarship in 1912 to the Royal College of Art in London. His training was interrupted by the outbreak of the War in 1914 and he served in the Army with the Royal Fusiliers during the conflict from the beginning until he was severely wounded in 1917. After recuperation, he returned to the RCA in 1918.

From 1919 to 1920, Cundall was at the Slade School of Fine Art before going to Paris and then Italy for further studies. He exhibited his first painting at the Royal Academy in London in 1918, a venue at which he exhibited a further 59 times, being elected a full member in 1944. He exhibited extensively in other venues including, among others, 81 at the New English Art Club, 23 at the Manchester City Art Gallery, 34 at the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours and many at the Leicester and Grosvenor Galleries in London.

He staged his first one-man show in 1927 at Colnaghi's. His talent was recognised by other art bodies by electing him to full membership, firstly by the New England Art Club in 1924, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in 1933, the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours in 1941, as well as the RA already mentioned and the National Society of Painters, Sculptors and Gravers.

His travelling is reflected in some of the titles of his paintings which include among many others; "Arrival at Freetown, Sierra Leone", "New York from Brooklyn", "Quebec, Canada", "The Acropolis", "Italian Landscape", "Segovia, Spain", "Bantry Bay, County Cork", "Quai des Grands Augustins, Paris" and "Pont Neuf, Paris" as well as views in Sweden and Russia.

He was particularly adept at crowd scenes and paintings such as: "Hastings Cricket Festival", "Bank Holiday, Brighton" (in Tate Britain), "A Chelsea Cup Tie", "London Zoo, Elephant Walk", "Demolition of Waterloo Bridge, 1935" and "Furnace/Smelting at a Steelworks" attest to this. During the Second World War, he worked for the War Artists' Commission and in 1940 was appointed an official artist to the Air Ministry and also the Royal Navy. This resulted in many evocative pictures...