

PORTLAND GALLERY ANOUNCE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY EDWARD SEAGO

Edward Seago (1910 -1974)
12th – 28th June 2024

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In our first dedicated presentation of Seago's works since 2020, this exhibition (also marking 50 years since the Seago's passing) features a wide selection of oils, watercolours and a group of rarely seen drawings direct from the artist's estate.



Centaur, Millie, Edith-May at Pin Mill, oil on board, 22 x 36 in.

Several East Anglian views, the birthplace of the artist and arguably Seago's most renowned subject matter, will be on display, complimented by a strong selection of works created after travelling extensively through Europe. Having been housebound for much of his childhood due to illness, Seago learned to embrace the rural views that surrounded him from a young age, developing a passion for nature which lasted the rest of his life. While his inspiration stemmed from traditionalist painters such as Sir Edward Munnings, Seago's brushwork and palette indicates a freshness and modernism to his work: from his vast and expressive Norfolk skylines to a tiny flash of colour from a distant sailboat catching the sun.

Our works on paper from the estate not only demonstrate Seago's astute draughtsmanship but also his ability to observe and capture everyday scenes with such character. Much of the artist's early 1930s imagery focusses on the bohemian lifestyle of travellers and circus entertainers. For Seago, these communities were an integral part of English history and just as important as capturing the landscape itself. The selected drawings form part of Seago's original illustrations for the publications *Sons of Sawdust*, 1934 and *The Rabbit Skin Cap*, 1939, never before exhibited.

Also on display are a small selection of emotive, small-scale oils from Seago's experiences in Italy as an unofficial war artist during 1944. Seago produced over a hundred paintings and drawings during his time spent time with the Allied forces, and the production of these works ultimately led to his first gallery representation with London's Colnaghi Gallery in 1945.



Flooding near Beccles, oil on canvas, 20 x 30 in.

All of Seago's paintings and drawings can be viewed as essentially character studies. Even the landscapes for which he is perhaps best known fall into this category. His works are rarely just topographical depictions of a view. Instead, his keen eye sought to imbue a painting with the essence of 'place'. His best paintings have an inherent timelessness.



Installation view, Portland Gallery

Edward Seago (1910 -1974) is on view across both floors of Portland Gallery until the 28th June. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 10am – 6pm (or by appointment). All works in the exhibition are available to purchase.

- High resolution images of works are available on request
- Viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- A printed catalogue supports the exhibition

PORTLAND GALLERY

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