

Harry Barr Self Portrait English Oil C.1924

Reference:

MPD-005512

Description

HARRY BARR

"SELF PORTRAIT"

OIL ON CANVAS, SIGNED

BRITISH, C.1924

21 X 17 INCHES

Harry Barr

1896-1987

Harry Barr was born in 1896 in London. He produced a large body of work, the majority in watercolour.

He studied at the Westminster School of Art where he was taught by the artist Walter Sickert and earned his diploma in 1915. Sickert remained an artistic mentor and a friend until he died in 1942. Barr was also good friends from childhood with David Bomberg (they both grew up in Whitechapel in the East End of London) until Bomberg's death in 1957.

Harry Barr's first London exhibition was held in a Bloomsbury gallery in January 1920. Later in that year he moved to Paris. In Paris he befriended the sculptor Ossip Zadkine, who helped him find a studio. He had his first exhibition of oil paintings in Paris at the Galerie Mouninou on the Rue Marbeuf.

Watercolour became Barr's main medium around 1939. He focused on painting nature. Among his most frequent subjects were trees that took on an anthropomorphic character. He painted all manner of landscapes and seascapes. His often pastoral scenes have been described as having "an economy of tone and statement that is positively Japanese".

Barr had various exhibitions in London, one at the Kaplan gallery in 1965. This exhibition caught the attention of art critic Max Wykes-Joyce whose write up in the Arts Review stated that Harry Barr's "work can be compared with the best of British watercolourists, past or present". In the same year an exhibition of 60 paintings was held at Friendship House in Moscow. This was recorded as the first one man show of a British artist in the USSR. The exhibition was well received and was extended from an original two to six weeks, showing also in Leningrad and Minsk. Other exhibitions in London included those at the October Gallery and posthumously at the Catto Gallery in 1990.

Though likened to Philip Wilson Steer, the British impressionist, Harry Barr resisted pressure to join any of the English art movements. He regarded painting as a necessary job, something he was compelled to do. He continued painting until his death in 1987 at the age of 91.

Price:

\$1,500.00



Main Image:

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