SARAH COLEGRAVE
FINE ART

Irish Cottages

Reginald Brill

Sold

Sarah Colegrave Fine Art
London & Oxfordshire
+44 (0)77 7594 3722 sarah@sarahcolegrave.co.uk

REF: 114770

Height: 68.58 cm (27")

Width: 95.25 cm (37.5")

Description

Brill was born in London. From the age of 13 he was taking night classes at St Martin’s School of Art and in 1921 he won a scholarship to The Slade where he studied under Tonks, 1921-24. In 1927 he won the Prix de Rome for Decorative Painting and was at the British School in Rome 1927-9. He taught at Blackheath School of Art before spending 3 months painting in Egypt in 1930. In 1934 he took up an appointment at The School of Art, Kingston upon Thames. His energy and enthusiasm revolutionized the department and within 5 years a purpose built School of Art was opened. He became principal of the school at the age of only 30 and had transformed it into one of the most respected art schools in England. Brill published two books; Modern Painting in 1946 and Art as a Career in 1962. He valued drawing as the solid base for his work and his narrative and social realist paintings reflect his interest in people and every day events. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, Leicester Galleries and in East Anglia, where he lived, at Lavenham. This work was executed in 1933. In her biography of Brill, Judith Bumpus commented on the artist’s painting trip to Ireland: “In 1933 he visited Donegal, where the lochs and mountains, particularly in the area around Muckish, inspired some of Brill’s most spontaneous and purely painterly watercolours. Nowhere else did he take such obvious pleasure in capturing the richness of the landscape: the vivid, moist colours, the patterns made by the vegetation and cloudy skies, and the swiftly changing light so characteristic of this area.” (Bumpus, Reginald Brill, 1999, p.18).

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