SARAH COLEGRAVE
FINE ART

John Ward - Venice

John Stanton Ward

Sold



REF: CG

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Description

JOHN STANTON WARD, RA, RWS(1917-2007)
Venice
Signed and inscribed: To dear Hans and Pat, Wishing them a very very happy Christmas – the best ever – Alison & JohnPen and ink and watercolourUnframed 21 by 30.5 cm., 8 1/4 by 12 in.(mount size 37.5 by 45.5 cm., 14 ¾ by 18 in.)
Provenance:Abbott and Holder, London.
A charming personal Christmas present from John and Alison Ward. It includes humorous portraits of them both holding the Christmas wishes banner over the Grand Canal.
Ward was born in Hereford, where his father, Russell Stanton Ward, ran an antiques shop and restored paintings. He studied at the Hereford School of Arts and Crafts before winning a place to the Royal College of Art in 1936, where he studied under Gilbert Spencer, Charles Mahoney and Alan Sorrell and won the prize for drawing. During World War II he served in the Royal Engineers, using his drawing skills to design pillboxes, and later taking part in the D-Day landings. He was posted to Belgium after the war before returning to the Royal College to graduate in 1946.
Ward worked as a painter, illustrator and teacher, happy to work in oils, watercolour, pastel and pen and ink. He painted portraits, landscapes, interiors and architectural subjects, undertaking portraits of members of the royal family, businessmen and celebrities including the Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal and the christenings of Prince William and Prince Harry. Fifteen of his portraits are in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery and he held one man shows at Agnew’s and the Maas Gallery. As a prolific illustrator he worked on guides to Herefordshire and North Yorkshire and produced illustrations for Vogue magazine from 1948 to 1952 and illustrated many books including Laurie Lee’s Cider with Rosie (1959) and H E Bates’s The Darling Buds of May (1958). As a teacher he gave lessons in drawing to the Prince of Wales and taught at for a time at Wimbledon School of Art.
In 1956 he became an associate member of the Royal Academy, being elected a full member in 1966. He was a Trustee of the Royal Academy from 1985 to 1993. In 1997 he resigned from the Royal Academy in protest at the Sensation exhibition and never rejoined. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, Royal Watercolour Society, Royal Society of Portrait Painters and elsewhere and is represented in many public collections.