

OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

KEITH VAUGHAN (1912-1977)



Trees III, 1950

Gouache and pencil

24.1 x 34 cms

(9.47 x 13.36 in)

P.O.A.

Signed lower right

Provenance: Anonymous sale; Christie's, London, 3 March 1989

Purchased at the 1990 exhibition

Private Collection, UK

Exhibition: Buenos Aires, Instituto de Arte Moderno, Keith Vaughan Pinturas Y Dibujos,
November 1950, no. 18

London, Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Keith Vaughan 1912-1977, November – December 1989,
no. 5

London, Agnew's, Keith Vaughan 1912-1977, November – December 1990, no. 58, p. 8

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The subject of a figure in an orchard picking fruit or in a landscape reaching up to branches occurs frequently in Vaughan's painting. On a formal level it opened up the human form and the gesture increased the expressive potential of the male figure. Here a young boy hangs on to a branch above his head. His clothing indicates it is perhaps summertime, though the bare branches of the tree might indicate otherwise. He is isolated and alone, save for the presence of his dog, like so many of Vaughan's paintings of the human form. A sense of melancholy pervades the scene.

One of Vaughan's great achievements was to develop the medium of gouache away from its use in advertising and commercial studios and to significantly increase its expressive range. Here gouache and India ink are combined to play off against opaque passages of colour. The effect is strengthened by the inclusion of Vaughan's ubiquitous scratched-in, inky lines which delineate the subject and reinforce the design.

Gerard Hastings