

OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

KEITH VAUGHAN (1912-1977)



Road to the Sea, 1953

Oil

26 x 37 cms

(10.22 x 14.54 in)

P.O.A.

1953-58

Oil on board

Titled verso in the artist's hand, with exhibition labels

Provenance: Laurence Ogilvie Esq, purchased from the 1958 exhibition in Bristol

Private Collection, UK

Exhibited: Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, *Spring Exhibition*, 1958, cat.no. 104

Bath Festival Exhibition, *Loan Exhibition of Paintings from Private Collections*, June, 1963, cat. no.33

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Bristol City Art Gallery, 1987-1990

Literature: Massey & Hepworth, *Keith Vaughan, The Mature Oils 1946-77*, Sansom & Company, Bristol, 2012, p.110, cat no.AH274

This work is now known to be the same picture as AH151. The present picture was originally titled *Foreshore* (1953) and was then altered and reworked by the Artist in 1958 prior to the Spring Exhibition at the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol where it was exhibited the same year.

Vaughan made several trips to Ireland in the late 1950s, making drawings and collecting visual information in his notebooks as he went along. These studies of figures and landscape features were later worked on and developed into paintings on his return to London. The artist visited Ireland in September 1957 and returned the following year, travelling around the rugged West Coast up to Donegal and then on to Dublin (note the pencil sketch, *Donegal Outhouse*, 1958). It is probable that initial ideas for the present work were generated on this visit, with the painting being executed later in his Belsize Park studio. At this time Vaughan was developing a style that was at once abstract and figurative. "I seem to be purposefully trying to make a composition of mutual contradictions. Figures which aren't figures, landscape space which is something else, shapes which are neither abstract nor figurative." (Keith Vaughan, Journal, 27 November 1957). Vaughan described the Irish landscape as the "perfect geographical situation... with coast, rocky harbours, wide beaches, mountains, river scenery, all within 6-10 miles in different directions. Hard to believe any city would have more to offer.... Rain - the most persistent feature of this place." (Keith Vaughan: Journal (unpublished entry), August 1958). He was clearly taken by the rugged Celtic landscape, if not the weather, and admirably captures its quality in the grey/green hues and the vigorous application of the pigment. The almost seamless integration of the disposition and temperament of the figure with the character of the setting is perhaps one of Vaughan's most notable achievements as an artist. ??

We are grateful to Gerard Hastings for compiling this catalogue entry.