

OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

KEITH VAUGHAN (1912-1977)



Group of Figures at Ait-Kassam, 1965

46.5 x 41 cms
(18.27 x 16.11 in)

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Gouache, ink and oil pastel

Signed and dated

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Marlborough Fine Art, London

Prof. John Ball bequeath to the Hargreaves and Ball Trust

Private Collection

Literature:

Philip Vann & Gerald Hastings. *Keith Vaughan*, Lund Humphries in association with Osborne Samuel, London, 2012, (illus. pl.180, p.171 as Ait-Rassam).

Vaughan had always been interested in the theme of assembling groups of figures and was particularly struck by the exotic crowds he discovered gathering outside the mosques at Taroudannt

and at religious meetings he witnessed in Ait-Kassam. Cinnamon-tinted figures emerge from the similarly coloured setting. Rich purples are played off against blue forms and white figures. The thread-like licks of white pigment trailing across the composition feature in several of the Moroccan gouaches.

From the mid 1960s onwards, Vaughan was steering his course midway between figuration and abstraction. In an interview he gave the year he painted this gouache, he described his approach in the following terms:

I am steering closer towards the point of total non-figuration, moving towards a sort of musical interpretation

an abstracted interpretation a musician, the subject matter becomes less and less important as the painting takes shape The subject-matter is simply what gets one going and where you kick off from.