

London Pride

The Grace Golden Collection



c. Estate of Grace Golden

GRACE GOLDEN A.R.C.A. (1904-93)

Grace Golden was a true cockney artist: born into a working class family within the sound of Bow Bells and raised in a 5-storey riverside house at the end of Southwark Bridge, at a time when London was still a busy arterial route of Empire.

Golden was educated at City of London School for Girls on the opposite shore of the river and proved a precociously talented student, winning successive scholarships to the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College, where she was later to teach.

Unusually for an artist of the period, Golden was intensely interested in history, particularly social history, sociology and the anthropology of city life. Her drawings and watercolours seem deliberately contrived to record as much cultural and social detail as possible. Architectural and geographical details are precisely and accurately recorded but it is every day human life that interests her most.

After graduating in the mid-1920s, Golden combined teaching with some illustrative work, but concentrated mainly on exhibitions. She exhibited at the Royal Academy between 1936-40 and had exhibitions at the prestigious Leicester Gallery and the Fine Art Society. As war approached, she also produced watercolours for the Recording Britain Project (which can be seen at the V&A) and posters for the war effort.

After the war, Golden's figurative style had fallen out of fashion and commercial work was limited to illustration for educational books. She also wrote and illustrated a book of her own experiences of London life called 'Old Bankside'.

In later life, she began to achieve some much-deserved recognition. In 1979, there was a well-attended retrospective exhibition of her work and in the 1980s, Sam Wanamaker made her an Honorary Archivist at the Bear Gardens Museum, the archive of the restored Globe Playhouse.

Her work is held in numerous public collections, most notably the Museum of London, which holds an extensive archive, the Tate, the V&A and the National Archives.



Fleet Street, 1941 CAT. 15
Watercolour, signed and dated



Four Stones CAT. 16
Watercolour



The Bridge CAT. 17
Watercolour



Queens Street Place, EC1 CAT. 18
Lithograph



Charing Cross Road, 1940 CAT. 19
Watercolour, signed and dated



Troop movements and requisition of railings, Eaton Square, 1942 CAT. 20
Watercolour, signed and dated



London in Wartime, 1941 CAT. 22
Watercolour, signed and dated

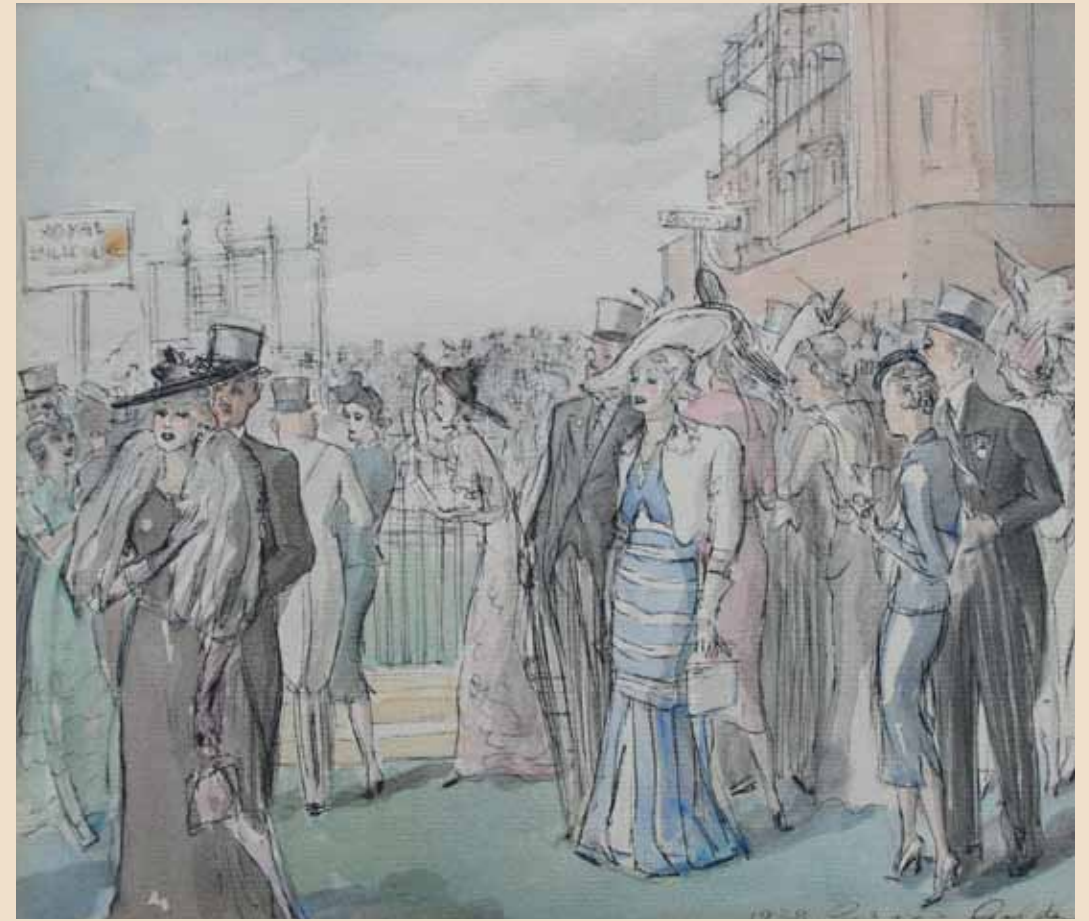


National Gallery & Trafalgar Square, 1939
 CAT. 21
Pen and wash





The Hill, Epsom, 1938 CAT. 23
Watercolour, signed and dated



Royal Enclosure, 1938 CAT. 25
Watercolour, signed and dated



Carriage Rides, 1938 CAT. 24
Watercolour, signed and dated



Horse Guards Parade, 1938 CAT. 26
Watercolour, signed and dated

