

Artists' London: 1870-1940

2-7 February 2016, The Gallery, 54 Shepherd Market W1

Shepherd Market in Mayfair is the perfect setting for our latest show: '**Artists' London 1870-1940**'.

London's artistic past has always been at the centre of our offering and the exciting discovery of a long-lost collection of watercolours and drawings of London by Whistler's leading patron, has prompted us to gather all our London pictures together for a single show.

Roger Fry, the influential critic, described the aesthete, collector and patron, **William Alexander** (1840 -1916) as 'one of the most important figures in the world of art'. According to Fry, it was Alexander's good taste that saved England from 'the disgrace of leaving Whistler unrecognised'. It is Alexander's daughter, Cicely, who stares out at us from Whistler's masterpiece '*Harmony in Grey and Green*'.

In addition to his connoisseurship, Alexander was also a first-rate draughtsman. Despite a sybaritic country house lifestyle at Aubrey House, the largest private dwelling in London, Alexander had an appetite for the down-at-heel, delving into some of London's dingier parts: from Jack the Ripper's East End to the back yards of Brentford & Isleworth. Little did the shoppers and passers by realise that the unassuming man with the sketchbook was one of London's richest men.

As well as 20 or so works by Alexander - with prices starting at under £100 - we've also gathered together some lovely new examples of London and suburban paintings by English impressionist and friend of Vincent Van Gogh, **Horace Mann Livens**, as well as work from *The Graphic* and the London Sketch Club. We will also have a section of work by artists from major and minor London art schools of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including work by **Orpen** among others.

Highlights include some little oils of Soho from the early 1930s, swingboats on Hampstead Heath in the 1920s and a study for **James Bateman's** 'Elephant & Castle Horse Auction'.

Most of London's villages are represented in the 100 or so pictures we will have on show, including Kensington, Chelsea, Richmond, Kew, Parsons Green, Isleworth, Chiswick, Smithfields, Croydon, Norwood, Mayfair, Whitechapel, Hampstead and Notting Hill.

If you don't have a London postcode, we'll also be featuring a selection of the destinations for Londoners' days out, including Brighton, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells.

Look forward to seeing you there,

Andrew Sim

If you would like an invitation to our special client preview on Feb 1st, please email me at simfineart@btinternet.com.