

Richard Ernst Eurich (1903 - 1992)

Bowden Hill, Wiltshire

Signed and dated, lower left: R. Eurich. 1963

Oil on canvas

19½ x 29½ in – 49.5 x 75 cm

Frame size

25¼ x 35¼ in – 64.1 x 89.5 cm

Artist description:

Richard Ernst Eurich was one of an influential generation of British painters, all born in 1903, that included John Piper, Graham Sutherland, Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden. Over a long career, Eurich painted war subjects, marines, coastal scenes, landscapes, figures and still life. Such was his interest to explore ideas and experiment, his style evolved from finely detailed realism to more simplified forms and dreamlike compositions. Narrative was often at the heart of his painting.

Born in Yorkshire, Eurich was educated at Bradford Grammar School before studying at Bradford School of Art, and then from 1924-6, at the Slade School under Henry Tonks. It was whilst at the Slade he was particularly influenced by the work of Turner, Constable, Cezanne and Durer. In 1929 he met Christopher Wood (1901-1930) who had a lasting impact on his painting, and this was also the year of his first solo exhibition with Goupil Gallery. During the Second World War he made a significant contribution as an Official War Artist with the Admiralty and his dramatic work The Landing at Dieppe, 19th August 1942 is in the Tate Collection. He later exhibited with Redfern Galleries, as well as with the New England Art Club and at the Royal Academy, where he became a full Academician in 1953. He was awarded an OBE for services to art in 1981.

In 1991 the Imperial War Museum, in collaboration with the Fine Art Society, held a retrospective exhibition. Eurich's paintings are found in important museum collections such as the Tate, Imperial War Museum, Manchester Art Gallery and National Maritime Museum.

A major publication written by art critic Andrew Lambirth, The Art of Richard Eurich, was published in 2020.