

EDWIN G. LUCAS (1911-1990)

Edwin George Lucas was born in Leith in 1911 and was an active artist during the 1930s, 40s and 50s. He was self-taught apart from a few evening classes at the Edinburgh College of Art and worked mainly on his own. The result is a body of work that is very unusual for a Scottish artist of his generation.

Early in his career he worked mainly in watercolours, and his works in this exhibition come from the tail end of that period. They consist of a sketch together with two paintings of the same subject, Drummond Place in Edinburgh's New Town, all produced in November 1939. It's interesting to see how these very different works were inspired by the same scene.

This period coincided with Edwin's brief flirtation with Surrealism, which he found a greatly liberating experience in both subject matter and style. The paintings in the present exhibition provide an example from early in this transition, ***City Garden*** being painted in the style of many of his 1930s watercolours, whereas ***Meeting in a City Square*** shows the surrealist influence at work.

Edwin's surrealist period lasted a couple of years and coincided with him painting seriously in oils for the first time. Subsequently he experimented with a wide variety of styles and his work continued to contain surrealist elements that appeal to people today. In recent years his landscape works of Edinburgh and the Water of Leith have proved particularly popular.

Following his marriage in 1952, he stopped painting in favour of domestic and family responsibilities, except for a spell in the early 1980s which was brought to an end by deteriorating eyesight. He died of leukaemia in 1990.

A number of works have been acquired by the City of Edinburgh art collection. These are periodically exhibited at the City Art Centre and other locations.

A very successful retrospective of his works was held at Hanover Fine Arts gallery, Edinburgh, in April 2009. Further works of his may be viewed at: www.EdwinGLucas.com.