

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.

Throughout the 1930s he worked mainly in Watercolours, with a strong emphasis on the landscapes close to the family home in Juniper Green. In 1939 he became attracted to Surrealism. It is tempting to think this was partly a reaction to world events: Edwin was a committed pacifist throughout his life and was a conscientious objector during the Second World War.

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, April 2009, followed by a smaller showing at the Gladstone Gallery, Edinburgh, July 2010. Smaller selections have been shown by H.F.A. at The Laurel Gallery, Edinburgh May & August 2011. Further works of his may be viewed at: www.EdwinGLucas.com.

* * * * *