

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: William Scott
Title: *Grey and Blue* (1962)
Medium: oil on paper
Dimensions: 49.5cm x 62cm
Notes: signed: W. Scott
purchased: Hanover Gallery, London
exhibited: *George Dawson's Collection*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, TCD, 5-27 August, 1983, cata. no. 67; Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, 30 June-21 July 1985, cata. no. 30

b. 1913, Greenock, Scotland d. 1989, Coleford, nr. Bath

Born of Scottish and Irish parents, Scott is represented in most international collections. He studied informally under Kathleen Bridle before attending Belfast College of Art (1928 – 31) and the Royal Academy Schools (RAS), London (1931 – 35, on a scholarship). In 1933, during his third year studying sculpture at the RAS, he won a silver medal. The following year, he won the Leverhulme Travelling Scholarship. Before World War II, he taught at the Bath Academy of Art (BAA). After WWII, which he spent in the Royal Engineers, he was appointed Senior Painting Lecturer at the BAA.

Scott painted mainly still lifes during the 1930s and '40s, but after a visit to the USA in 1953, when he first saw the abstract work of Pollock, Rothko and Kline, Scott's style became larger in scale, more simplified in form and more limited in its range of colour. Thus he moved into abstract painting, and slowly developed his style and technique so as to produce his masterpieces of the 1960s and 1970s. His work was shown at a huge number of solo and group shows worldwide during his career. He had one-man shows at almost all major art galleries in Ireland and the UK. He excelled in drawing, oil painting, watercolours, gouache, murals, as well as printmaking, including lithography, and screen printing, while his subjects varied from still-life to landscapes, figure painting and nudes.

During his spectacular career as an artist, Scott won numerous prestigious awards. He was elected Sociétaire du Salon d'Automne (1939) and he exhibited at the Venice Biennale (1958), the São Paulo Biennale (1969) and Rosc 80 (1980). Later he was made a member of the Royal Academy and a CBE (1966). In 1977 he received a D. Litt. from Trinity College Dublin. The sale of his outstanding still-life *Bowl, Eggs and Lemons* sold for over £1 million at Christie's in London, propelling Scott into the million pound category, occupied by such Irish artists as Francis Bacon, Jack Butler Yeats, William Orpen, John Lavery, and Louis le Brocquy.

Information contained in this article is from The Modern Art Collection Trinity College Dublin (David Scott, 1989) and www.visual-arts-cork.com.

This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers
For further information please consult www.tcd.ie/artcollections