

JOHN VALLELY

AN EXHIBITION OF RECENT PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS
AND WATERCOLOURS BY JOHN VALLELY



ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY
7 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST
JUNE 14 TILL JULY 8



Travel is a valued stimulant for the artist and few of our younger artists have travelled as widely as John Vallely, but he remains, despite his frequent trips abroad outside the main stream of modern movements which have so strongly influenced most of our younger generation. Time spent abroad has given him the opportunity to view the Irish situation from a distance and place it in a universal context. He has progressed in his work with single mindedness from paintings of celtic mythology a few years back to a whole hearted enthusiasm for traditional Irish music, reflecting his deep involvement with the "fleadh ceol" the two and three day musical festivities of Irish country towns. He plays the concert flute in a trio with flageolet and fiddle, an ensemble which this year in competition has reached the national finals. He never makes sketches on the spot; while playing and listening he stores in his subconscious the rhythms and harmonies, the atmosphere, explosive, dynamic yet charged with melancholia, images which months later motivate paintings. With these images and an intimacy with pipers and fiddlers from Sligo to Algiers firm in his mind he withdraws, and produces in tangible painterly terms the distilled versions we now see in chromatic variations from the blue greys of the west to the sultry harmonies of Spanish Morocco. The drawings like the paintings have evolved from the process of working and are separate sincere emotional entanglements. Although his recent paintings tend towards abstraction, delineation of the figure remains paramount. He reveals his images through a subtle confident control of light lines and areas against dark masses. The liberal use of pigment contrasted against thinly glazed surfaces gives vitality and power to canvases, which have the same sensitive concern for visual vocabulary as the folk musician has for the sounds he affectionately manipulates. The musicians in John Vallely's paintings are personal friends but are neither portraits nor caricatures. Rather in their classical simplification they reach towards a greater universality and achieve a mythological dimension which, for me, recalls something of the character of de Staels footballers and jazz musicians, or paralled perhaps in the great themes of Picasso's harlequins and clowns, mythological in dimension but essentially humanist.

BRIAN FERRAN

THE FOUR MUSICIANS 40 x 50 CATALOGUE No. 5



- 1941 Born in Armagh. First art instruction under father, an amateur painter.
1958 Armagh Technical School night classes under Peter McGirr.
1959 Belfast College of Art.
1960 Awarded Craft certificate in Lithography.
1961 Won several national art prizes.
1961 Edinburgh College of Art. Awarded Diploma.
1962 Edinburgh College of Art. Awarded Post Diploma.
1963 Edinburgh College of Art. Awarded Travelling Scholarship.

EXHIBITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1961 Taylor Scholarship for watercolours.
1962 Andrew Grant Bequest. Prizes for life-painting.
Prizes for head drawing.
1962 1st CEMA Open painting exhibition.
1963
-64 Studio 25. 2 one-man exhibitions.
1963 8 Painters, Magee Gallery.
1963 Andrew Grant Bequest. Post-graduate Scholarship.
1964 Andrew Grant Bequest. Minor Travelling Scholarship 4 weeks in Italy.
1964 Clason-Harvie Bequest Travelling Scholarship 4 weeks Paris-Florence.
1964 Andrew Grant Bequest. Major travelling scholarship 1 year spent in Spain and Morocco.
1964 Midland Gallery, Nottingham, Young Scottish Painters Exhibition.
1965 Commonwealth Exhibition, Glasgow.
1966 One-man Molesworth Gallery, Dublin.
1966 1916 Exhibition, Municipal Gallery, Dublin.
1966 Arts Council short-visited awards. 1 week Paris.
1966
-67 Young Irish Artists Foundation Exhibition.

COLLECTIONS

- Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
Young Irish Artists Foundation.
MacGeough Bond.
American collections.
T.G.F. Paterson, Curator, County Museum, Armagh.

COMMISSIONS

- 1964-67 Mural for Baptistry of Loughmacrory Chapel, Co. Tyrone.

OIL PAINTINGS

1	DANCING THE CLARE SET II	£150	0	0
	2 STREET SESSION II	50	0	0
	3 THE SLIGO FIDDLER II	30	0	0
4	YOUNG GIRL PLAYING A FLAGELOT	30	0	0
	5 THE FOUR MUSICIANS	100	0	0
6	SEANCHEOL AR AN SEANNOS CONNDAE AN CLAIR	100	0	0
	7 THE MEN OF DESTINY	35	0	0
	8 STREET SESSION I	30	0	0
	9 SEAN 'SA CHEO	35	0	0
10	DANCING THE CLARE SET I	35	0	0
	11 MOROCCAN MUSICIANS II	80	0	0
	12 THE THREE MUSICIANS III	90	0	0
	13 BANISH MISFORTUNE	35	0	0

DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS

14	MOUNTAIN BEHIND MALAGA	£12 10 0
15	HILL-TOP MONASTERY NEAR MALAGA	12 10 0
16	CYPRESS AVENUE, MALAGA	12 10 0
17	PUERTO DE LA TORRE	15 0 0
18	THE FOUR MUSICIANS	17 10 0
19	STREET SESSION II	17 10 0
20	SEAN 'SA CHEO	15 0 0
21	TWO MUSICIANS	25 0 0
22	THE RED HORSE	15 0 0
23	ARAB MUSICIANS FEZ. I	15 0 0
24	THE FOX-HUNTERS WITH THEIR SPOILS	15 0 0
25	STREET SESSION IV	17 10 0
26	BOY PLAYING THE FLUTE	12 10 0

27	BOY PLAYING THE ACCORDEON	£12	10	0
	28 THE SLIGO FIDDLER I	12	10	0
29	MOORISH GARDENS MALAGA I	15	0	0
30	MOORISH GARDENS MALAGA II	15	0	0
	31 OLIVE GROVE, IZNATE	15	0	0
	32 ARAB MUSICIANS II	12	10	0
33	MUSICIANS AND ACROBAT, MARRAKESH	12	10	0
	34 LANDSCAPE BEHIND MALAGA	12	10	0
	35 THE PIPER	15	0	0
	36 STREET SESSION V	17	10	0
	37 STREET SESSION VI	15	0	0
	38 CEOLTOIRI CHULANN	17	10	0
	39 ISLAND LANDSCAPE	15	0	0
	40 STREET SESSION VII	15	0	0
	41 THE THREE MUSICIANS I	15	0	0
	42 MOROCCAN MUSICIANS I	15	0	0
	43 THE THREE MUSICIANS II	15	0	0
44	GARDENS IN THE ALCAZABA, MALAGA	15	0	0
	45 THE DANCERS	15	0	0
	46 SOUTHERN SPANISH LANDSCAPE	15	0	0
47	ARAB MUSICIANS AND A STORYTELLER	12	10	0
	48 OLIVE GROVES NEAR JAEN	15	0	0
	49 THE TWO MUSICIANS	25	0	0

BANISH MISFORTUNE

18 x 20

CATALOGUE No. 13



YOUNG GIRL PLAYING A FLAGELOT

12 x 10

CATALOGUE No. 4

