

PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG SCOTSMAN  
EDWARD BAIRD 1904-49

12th April - 12th June 2004

Edward Baird is one of Scottish art history's hidden gems. During his lifetime Baird was not only the top student in his year at Glasgow School of Art but also a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy. Yet despite this relatively high profile Baird has been largely overlooked since his death in 1949. This exhibition seeks to rediscover Baird's talents and to highlight the breadth and subtlety of his oeuvre.

Three main reasons exist for Baird's recent low profile. Firstly, he was a perfectionist and therefore a painstakingly slow worker which resulted in a total of only one hundred canvasses being completed. Secondly, Baird was an intensely private person who rarely gave interviews and shunned any publicity outside local newspapers. Finally and most unfortunately, Baird suffered persistently from chronic asthma for the majority of his short life meaning that he was often confined to his hometown of Montrose.

This exhibition is only the second major retrospective of Baird's work (the first took place in Edinburgh in 1992). Thanks to Jon Blackwood, curator, the works on display have been brought together from private collections and museums from all over the country to form an important and thoroughly researched exhibiton. Accompanied by a newly published catalogue raisonne 'Portrait of a Scotsman' hopes to return Baird to his rightful place in the history of Scottish Art.