

RASCALS AND RUINS: THE ROMANTIC VISION OF JAMES PRYDE  
11th September - 16th December 2006  
AT THE FLEMING COLLECTION

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James Pryde was described in his own lifetime as 'the last great Romantic painter left in England'. He specialised in mystery and evocation; ruined and deserted buildings were his trademark. He was also, with his brother-in-law William Nicholson, one of the 'Beggartaff Brothers' who were so influential in the art of poster making and design.

At the core of the exhibition were some of the paintings brought or commissioned in 1910-1922 for Dunecht House, Aberdeenshire for Annie, Viscountess Cowdray (1862-1932), where they hang to this day. These works have rarely, if ever been shown outside Scotland. The paintings include all of Pryde's characteristic themes and moods, with superbly theatrical depictions of architecture both tragic and colourful. They reveal the vision and the craftsmanship for which he was celebrated at the height of his career, inspiring some of his contemporaries to regard him at this time as the greatest living artist. Pryde's series also includes paintings inspired by the spectacular Tudor ruins of Cowdray Castle in West Sussex.