GODSON & COLES

FINE ART & ANTIQUE FURNITURE

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Austin Wright (Chester 1911 - York 1997)

Critics

P1190

Critics,1957

Lead Sculpture

"Critics" is a clever interpretation of human behaviour. The angular stance of the figures and use of light and shade incite the feeling that the viewer has intruded upon a conversation or is being critiqued by this trio.

PROVENANCE

The collection of Humphrey Boyle, founder of Zoffany

LITERATURE

James Hamilton, 1994, ‘The Sculpture of Austin Wright’, London, p.137,fig.121, cat.S106

EXHIBITION

Roland Browse and Delbanco Gallery, London

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Austin Wright studied Modern Languages at New College, Oxford and trained to become a teacher. His first teaching post was at The Downs School near Malvern in 1934, where he worked alongside W. H Auden and Maurice Feild who held a Dada School exhibition whilst Wright was at the school.
In 1937 Wright moved to York and taught languages at Bootham School. His figurative work was influenced by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. As a conscientious objector, Wright remained in Yorkshire during the Second World War, continuing to teach at Bootham. His work was admired by Charles Sewter, who commented 'It would not be outrageous, far from it, to claim that Austin Wright is the most gifted sculptor working in Britain today.'