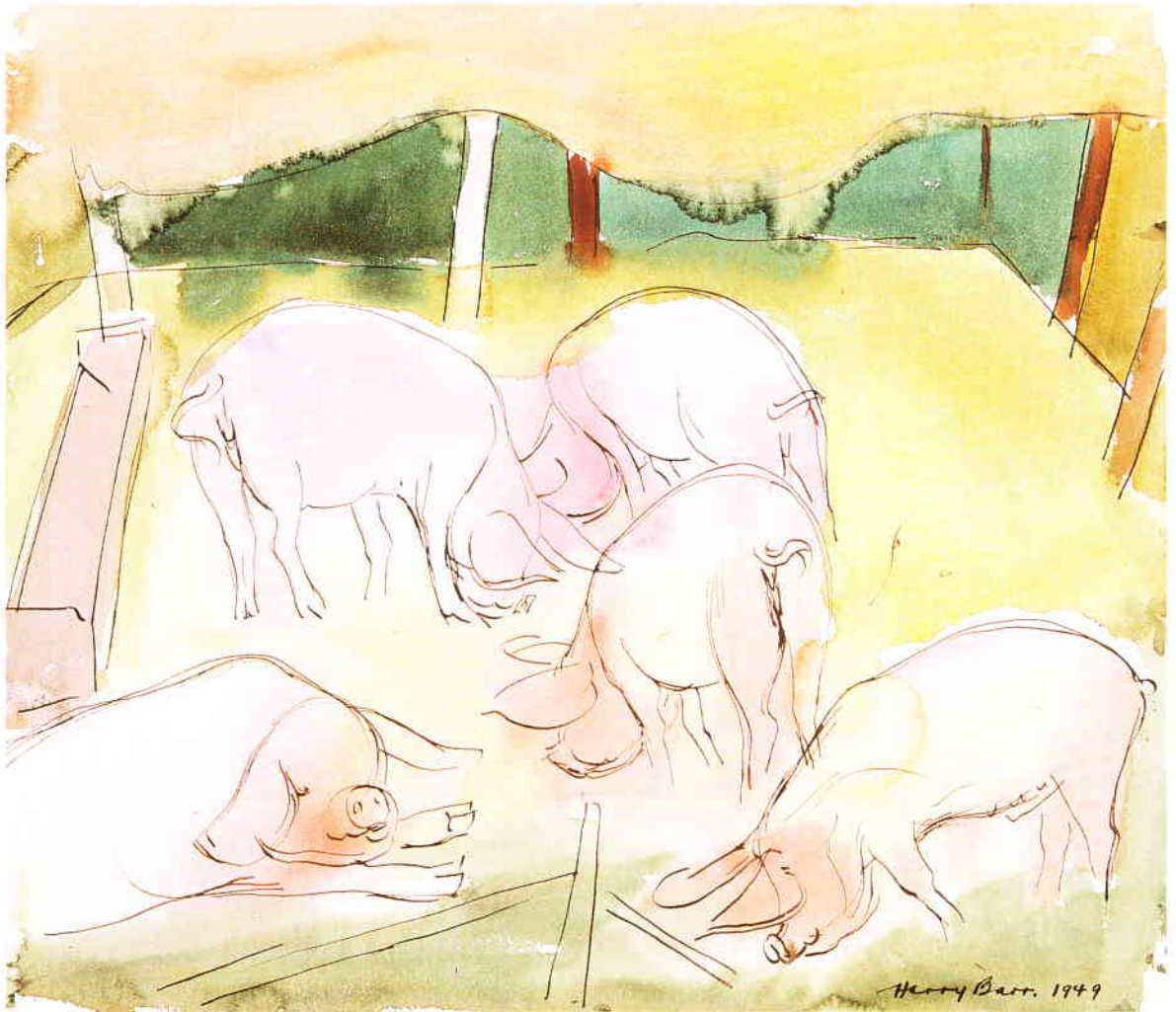


# THE CATTO GALLERY

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Watercolour

Pigs 1949

14" x 16"

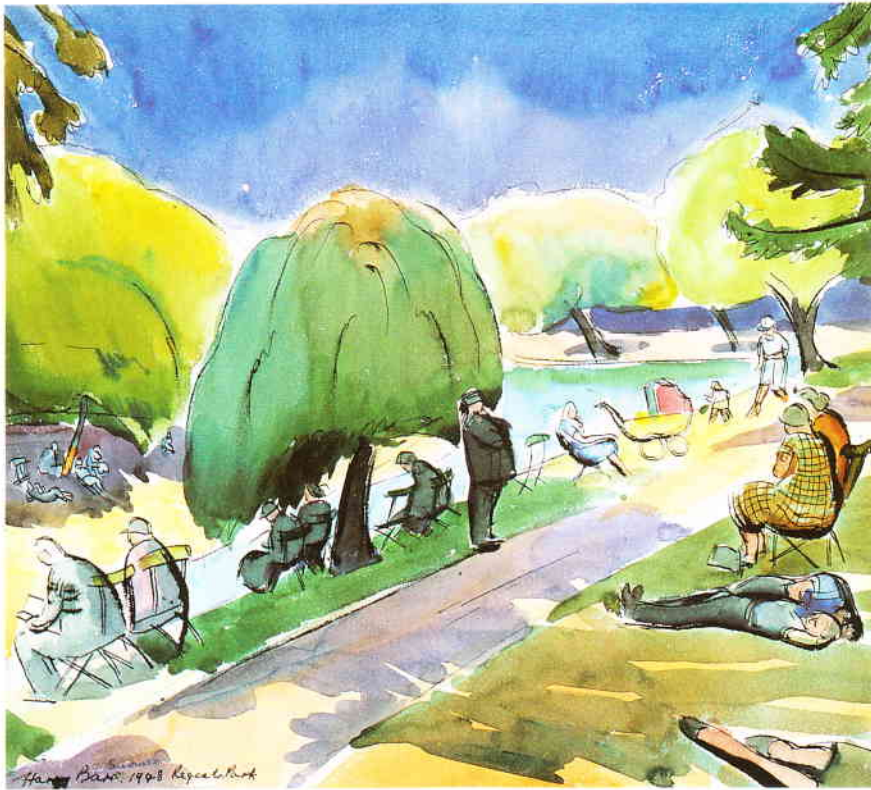
## HARRY BARR

1896-1987

A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

**20 - 30 June 1990**

Gallery open: Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 - 6.00 Sunday 2.30 - 6.00



Watercolour

Regents Park, 1948

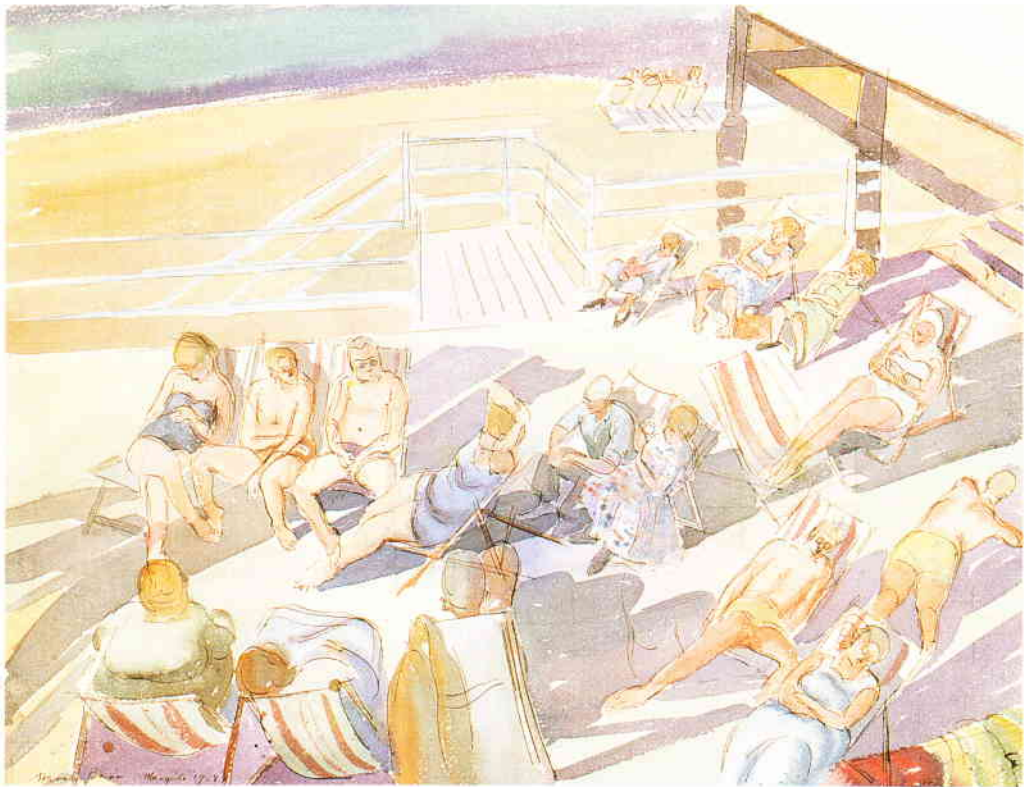
13" x 15"



Watercolour

Wapping, 1955

14" x 18"



Watercolour

Margate, 1958

14" x 18"



Watercolour

Slough, 1953

14" x 18"

This piece was written and spoken by Roger Epszajn, on the occasion of Harry Barr's funeral. Roger Epszajn is the grandson of the artist.

## HARRY BARR (1896-1987)

Harry Barr was a painter, and it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to say a few words about him.

I have to admit that I face this task with as much trepidation as sadness. I, as I am sure all the family do, miss Harry enormously. But to begin to describe him, to try to sketch a portrait of him in words, is so very humbling when I recall how many faceted his abilities and qualities were, especially his awesome ability to express himself in language.

Harry was a painter of genius. Though he painted many oils of great quality, he will always be remembered as one of England's finest watercolourists, with style and technique purely his own. He held several exhibitions including the first one-man show by an English watercolourist in the USSR. But for me, there was always something very special, deeply personal and intimate about his line drawings, a genre in which his consummate skill as a draughtsman stripped his soul bare and allowed his genius to shine through.

That is how Harry would have liked us to remember him. But Harry the man we all knew, was a far rounder, fuller character. I would like to call him a twentieth century Renaissance man, but Harry genuinely defies such a simple characterisation.

Once when talking about one of his favourite authors, Jorge Louis Borges or Jorgy Borgy as Harry affectionately referred to him, he remarked on his sympathy with Borge's simple satisfaction is being able to look back upon his life and at least claim, "I had a voice of my own". Nothing could have been more true of Harry. He certainly had a voice of his own.

He was eloquent, articulate, controversial, outspoken, never without an opinion, and usually holding the opposite point of view just for the sake of pugilism. He loved language, the music of its sounds, the philosophical complexities of its semantics. He adored poetry and could declaim poems more powerfully than anyone I have ever known or heard. He was forever inventing aphorisms and maxims, many of which still guide me today. He wrote essays and discourses and many times embarked on ferocious correspondences revealing his profound wisdom and deep understanding of people, leaving his correspondents both enlightened and forever changed.

In short Harry was also a talker.

But then he was also a cook. His proud boast that he cooked the 'best English roast beef in the world', was to the best of my knowledge true. I am sure many of us remember his fabulous dinner parties where the best quality food was served, cooked to perfection and accompanied by fine wine and witty, ebullient conversation. He could sew, even making his own underwear and pyjamas. Indeed he developed a trademark by sewing a pen pocket onto the left breast of every one of his shirts. He made furniture to his own strong elegant designs and had great skill with all manner of tools. In general he made a point of understanding how things worked and then treating them with the sympathy they deserved.

Harry died a little more than 91 years after he was born, in the East End of London, Whitechapel in fact, the son of Polish and Russian parents. I have known him all my life, yet this is barely more than one third of his long life; a very full life that saw him as a teacher of Painting, Dancing and Boxing in the Isle of Dogs, as an impecunious young artist in a studio in the Paris of the twenties, as the international purchaser for an importer and then as a successful businessman with his own dress factory. He once entitled a printed fabric collection with typical flamboyance 'the best prints in the world.' As a businessman, supplying dresses to all the leading fashion stores, from Marks and Spencer to C & A, he was known not only as the man who always paid his bills on time, but as a painter.

Which brings me back to the beginning.

Harry was a Painter.



# HARRY BARR

## Watercolours

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Title</i>                               | <i>Price</i> |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 1.         | Indian Adjutant                            | £950         |
| 2.         | Pelicans Preening                          | £950         |
| 3.         | Three Pandas                               | £950         |
| 4.         | Two Giraffes                               | £950         |
| 5.         | Ostrich                                    | £850         |
| 6.         | Slough, 1953                               | £1650        |
| 7.         | Wapping, September 1955                    | £1850        |
| 8.         | Ullapool, 1968                             | £1650        |
| 9.         | Leaning Boat                               | £1450        |
| 10.        | Wisley (I) October 1966                    | £1550        |
| 11.        | Study of a Young Boy                       | £1000        |
| 12.        | Wisley (II) November 1966                  | £1500        |
| 13.        | Putney, October 1948                       | £1850        |
| 14.        | Hampstead Heath, 1941                      | £1450        |
| 15.        | Richmond, August 1948                      | £1750        |
| 16.        | Two Horses Feeding, October 1951           | £1950        |
| 17.        | Tree-Lined Road, 1957                      | £1650        |
| 18.        | Five Pigs, 1949                            | £1950        |
| 19.        | Pigs Lying, 1949                           | £1950        |
| 20.        | Hungerford, 1948                           | £1950        |
| 21.        | London Bridge, 19 May 1968                 | £2250        |
| 22.        | Wisley Pond, June 1966                     | £1750        |
| 23.        | Bognor, 1961                               | £1650        |
| 24.        | Summer Regents Park, 1948                  | £2500        |
| 25.        | North Wales, April 13 1965                 | £1650        |
| 26.        | Harbour Eyemouth, August 1967              | £1850        |
| 27.        | Kneeling Nude                              | £1000        |
| 28.        | Audience of Four, North Wales, August 1950 | £2750        |
| 29.        | Leigh, 1950 (Boats)                        | £1350        |

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Title</i>                              | <i>Price</i> |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 30.        | View Point, April 1960                    | £1450        |
| 31.        | Leigh, October 1954 (Boats)               | £1650        |
| 32.        | Leigh, 1959 (Boats)                       | £1450        |
| 33.        | Marsh Landscape                           | £1250        |
| 34.        | Richmond, August 1948                     | £1950        |
| 35.        | Cows, November 1951                       | £1950        |
| 36.        | Kings' Lynn, October 1967                 | £1950        |
| 37.        | Tuesday Market, Kings' Lynn, October 1967 | £1950        |
| 38.        | Haifa from Dania, October 1968            | £1850        |
| 39.        | Hampstead Heath, 1939                     | £1750        |
| 40.        | Windy Day, 1939                           | £1450        |
| 41.        | Southwark, September 1955                 | £1850        |
| 42.        | London Docks, October 1955                | £1850        |
| 43.        | In the Park, 1948                         | £1850        |
| 44.        | Ashdown Forest, 1950                      | £1750        |
| 45.        | Blue Boat                                 | £1250        |
| 46.        | Millicent, August, 1951                   | £1150        |
| 47.        | Etapes, August 1955                       | £2250        |
| 48.        | Four Rowing Boats, 1945                   | £1850        |
| 49.        | Surrey, 1949                              | £1650        |
| 50.        | Cannes, April 1951                        | £2250        |
| 51.        | Paris, April 1951                         | £2500        |
| 52.        | Two Horses, November 1951                 | £1950        |
| 53.        | Jersey Cows, June 1950                    | £1950        |
| 54.        | Snow, Hampstead, January 1952             | £1500        |
| 55.        | Wisley, The Pond, 1950                    | £1650        |
| 56.        | Margate, 1958                             | £2250        |
| 57.        | Southend, 1950                            | £2250        |