

The Staffordshire Moors near Leek

William Bowyer



Description

William Bowyer, R.A., R.W.S. (1926-2015)
The Staffordshire Moors near Leek

Signed lower right: William Bowyer '73
Watercolour
57.8 by 75.2 cm., 22 ³/₄ by 29 ¹/₂ in.

Provenance:
By descent from the artist

William Bowyer was born in Leek in Staffordshire and studied at the Burslem School of Art and the Royal College of Art where he was taught by Ruskin Spear and Carel Weight among others. He was Head of Fine Art at Maidstone School of Art from 1971 to 1982 and was made a full member of the Royal Academy in 1981. He was also a member of the Royal Watercolour Society and Honorary Secretary of the New English Art Club. He is best known for his traditional landscapes, many of the Thames at Chiswick, his home from 1951, as well as views taken at Walberswick, Suffolk, his second home for many years. He was also a successful portraitist with his portraits of Arthur Scargill and Viv Richards being bought by the National Portrait Gallery in 1988. A keen cricketer, he was commissioned by the MCC to paint a game at Lord's in the same year.

These watercolours, which have remained in his family, perhaps show a more private side to his work and are unusual in their scale and audacity. Nos. 49a, 50a and b were painted on a family holiday to Coverack in Cornwall whereas 49b is a view on the Staffordshire moors near Leek near where William grew up.