KEITH VAUGHAN

The Mature Oils 1946–1977
A commentary and catalogue raisonné

Anthony Hepworth + Ian Massey

Keith Vaughan is an artist from an historically important, enduringly popular period in post-war British art. Although he made his first paintings – small works of art on paper and card – in the 1930s, he came to prominence in the Neo-Romantic movement of the 1940s, exhibiting in London and New York during that decade and going on to achieve international recognition in a career that spanned four decades. His work is held in important public and private collections throughout the world and yet is not as widely known and appreciated as it deserves.

Publication of this book is timely in Vaughan’s centenary year, and along with a number of exhibitions, will help generate renewed interest in this key British artist. The result of many years of research, it is the first comprehensive illustrated record of all the known oil paintings produced from 1946 to 1977. The catalogue has been compiled from the artist’s own records by art dealer and Vaughan expert Anthony Hepworth.

In an accompanying critical essay, Ian Massey – author of the acclaimed Patrick Procktor: Art and Life – considers the stylistic and technical development of Vaughan’s work over three decades from the post-war period when he first concentrated fully on painting. Drawing on the artist’s own writings including previously unpublished correspondence, Massey’s text documents the auto-biographical factors which influenced the artist’s iconography, much of which centres on the male figure and landscape. Vaughan’s main influences – Brangwyn, Cézanne, Matisse and De Staal are considered, as are the ways in which theatre, ballet, film and photography informed his work. The work is also set within a wider artistic and social context, and considers Vaughan’s position within figurative and abstract artistic developments of the period, both in London and internationally.

This study is underpinned by the archival resources primarily of Tate, the University of Aberystwyth and documentation in the collection of Anthony Hepworth.

More than 600 paintings are documented in detail, of which more than 400 are illustrated.