SARAH COLEGRAVE
FINE ART

From Katya and Oliver - 20th Century British watercolour of a cat by John Beaven

John Beaven

Sold



REF:

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Description

John Beaven (fl.1940-1970)

From Katya and Oliver

Watercolour

Unframed, in mount only.

6 cm. by 2 1/2 in. diameter (mount size 25.5 by 19.5 cm., 9 3/4 by 7 3/4 in.)

John Beaven was an animator, illustrator, poster designer and graphic artist working between 1945 to1960. In the late 1940s Beaven worked as an animator on the Charley Films produced by Halas & Batchelor. Charley was cartoon character who portrayed an everyman figure a through the cartoons the Central Office of Information wished to teach the public about the various reforms being undertaken by the post-war government. The films looked at various aspects of the nations scheme for recovery after the effects of World War II and covered new towns, schooling, the National Health, National Insurance and various forms of industry. The films Beaven worked on were: Charley in “Your Very Good Health” (1948); Charley in the New Towns (1948); Charley’s March of Time (1948); Charley Junior’s Schooldays (1949); Farmer Charley (1949). As an illustrator he worked for Look and Learn, producing educational illustrations and posters for children. In the 1960s he designed a series of classroom posters for Macmillan & Co, which covered history, fairy tale and literary themes.

This amusing illustration of a cat was drawn as a birthday or Christmas card for Beaven’s wife. John and Chris Beaven lived in Ranelagh Avenue, Barnes, south west London.