Moon Buzz

Sir Terry Frost RA

Sold

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REF: 10191

Height: 26.7 cm (10.5")

Width: 27.9 cm (11")

Description

SIR TERRY FROST, R.A.
(British, 1915-2003)
MOON BUZZ
Signed and dated 'Terry Frost/April 03'
Titled, signed and dated on reverse by the artist
Pastel on card
Floated in a black polished, Burra, pearwood frame

Executed five months before he died, Moon Buzz represents one of the preoccupations of his carreer: 'I have always been a sun lover and a moon lover .... its to do with the things that are always there in spite of our world's problems'.

SIR TERRY FROST, R.A. (British, 1915-2003)

Sir Terry Frost was one of Britain's most respected and successful abstract artists, his work spanning six decades until his death in 2003. Painting and printmaking were always at the centre in Frost's work: for him painting and printing were inseparable, with one medium creating ideas for the other. From observation of nature he developed a repertoire of recurrent forms and vibrant colour. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1992 and knighted in 1998.

Terence Frost was born in 1915 at Leamington Spa. His grandparents, who ran the last bath-chair business in the town, brought him up. He was educated at Leamington Spa Central School where he edited the art magazine, but left at 15 to work in a cycle shop, an electrical wholesaler in Birmingham and at Armstrong Whitworth, where he painted the red, white and blue targets onto fighter planes.

During the Second World War Frost served in France, Palestine, Lebanon and, with the Commandos, in Sudan and Crete, where he was captured in June 1941. Frost was later to say: "In prisoner-of-war camp I got tremendous spiritual experience, a more aware or heightened perception during starvation, and I honestly do not think that that awakening has ever left me." He began to draw and paint, mainly portraits of his fellow PoWs, encouraged by the young artist Adrian Heath. They made brushes from horsehair, canvases from their pillows, and mixed what pigments they could get with the oil from sardine tins. "Prison camp was my university," Frost said.

It was Heath who suggested that Frost go to art school when the war came to an end, and who helped him to get an ex-serviceman's grant and, in 1947, a place at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts. It was Heath, too, who encouraged him to make his home at St Ives in Cornwall. William Coldstream was then head of painting, assisted by Claude Rogers, Pasmore and Lawrence Gowing. Pasmore, something of a maverick, urged him to skip the rigours of the Camberwell life class in favour of spending time in the National Gallery where he learnt lessons in rhythm and colour and formal organisation that stayed with him all his life. With Pasmore's encouragement, the older artist was moving decisively towards abstraction in his own work at this time.

After Camberwell, Frost returned to St Ives where he worked as Hepworth's assistant on Contrapuntal Forms (1951) for the Festival of Britain and became friendly with the shrewd Nicholson, who taught him about Cubism without ever committing anything to paper. Frost travelled to Paris to study with Roger Hilton,

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became friendly with Peter Lanyon and Patrick Heron and continued to visit Pasmore and Heath. His early work was figurative, t...

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