

At the start of the 20th century France was an artistic haven where a whole new world of artistic flare, experimentation and bohemian lifestyle awaited. The post-impressionism of Cezanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin had given way to Matisse and the Fauves, only to be quickly followed by Picasso and the Cubists – all of whom were influential to an international audience. The Parisian café scene at Montparnasse became popular along with other locations along the Riviera such as Antibes and Cassis.

Throughout history Scotland and France have had a strong artistic and alliance. France, especially Paris, has always been a playground for artistic talent and hub of innovation. Scottish artists have always been very aware of artistic movements and work being produced in Paris; many studied at the academies, set up studios and enjoyed the café culture in Paris while summering in the South. This exhibition explores some of the artistic output from their time in France in the first half of the 20th century, from detailed draftsmanship in the Parisian gardens to loose Impressionism in the resorts of Paris Plage.

The represented artists did not develop as a group; in fact, they were working at different times, but all were attracted by similar draws and unified by use of colour. The magical Parisian gardens, the South Society scenes and perambulating figures played a key role in subject matter for the artists. The majestic fountains and well-maintained gardens around Paris became an artist's haven.

Lyon & Turnbull are delighted to be offering 'The Flower Market' by James Kay in our forthcoming Scottish Paintings auction on 6th June. These French examples by Kay are some of the most desirable works when they come to the open market. If you would like any further information on the works on show in this exhibition or if we can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to get in touch.