

## **The Walton Family**

At the turn of the 19th century Glasgow was a thriving and prosperous industrial city, known as the Second City of the Empire. The Glasgow Institute was formed in 1861, the Glasgow Art Club in 1867, the Society of Women Artists in 1882 and the new Glasgow School of Art was housed in the McLellan Galleries from 1869 – these were all institutions that contributed to the flourishing arts scene in the city. A thriving artist's community grew up on and around Bath Street. At the epicentre of this community was a group of artists who were to become known as the Glasgow School of Painting or 'The Glasgow Boys', a key member of which was the painter Edward Arthur Walton (1860-1922) and his artist siblings, George, Hannah, Helen and Constance.

### **EDWARD ARTHUR WALTON (1860-1922)**

Edward Arthur trained at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and then at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) in the 1870's. While studying in Glasgow he formed close friendships with artists James Guthrie (1859-1930) and Joseph Crawhall (1861-1913). Together they were a key group in the Glasgow School of Painting, along with some other twenty artists, who we now know as the Glasgow Boys. Edward Arthur is best known for his portraiture, landscapes and figurative work the finest of which was painted between 1875-95. In 1877 Edward Arthur was rejected from membership of the Glasgow Art Club and it was not until the following year, after a successful Glasgow Institute Show, that he gained entry, and professional recognition.

### **GEORGE WALTON (1867-1933)**

George was the youngest in the family, and was the most commercially successful of the Walton Family. George set up an interior design and fit out company named Walton & Co. George made a number of notable designs in furniture and interiors and had retailers in Glasgow that designed and carried out complete fit outs. The company was hugely successful both in the UK and USA – two most notable commissions were Miss Cranston's Tearooms and then the Kodak Shops.

### **HANNAH MOORE WALTON (1863-1940)**

Like her older sister, Helen, Hannah hand decorated pieces of ceramics and glass. Her monogram can be recognised as HMW. Helen and Hannah exhibited at shows in the McLellan Galleries and the Lady Artists Club selling exhibitions. The Lady Artist's Club was located directly back to back with the Glasgow Art Club on Blythswood Square. Although women were not allowed to join the Glasgow Art Club until 1984, the two clubs socialised together and it has been noted that there was a lot of secret communication in the lanes between the two buildings!

### **HELEN WALTON (1850-1921)**

Helen was twelve when the family relocated to Glasgow from Manchester. She attended the Glasgow School of Design in 1865 and was awarded the Haldane Prize in her final year, 1871. The type of training the Haldane School provided, mainly in drawing and pattern design, had attracted increasing numbers of gentlewoman and Helen's work flourished in this environment. She painted many pieces of glassware, including finger bowls, tumblers and jugs and signed her work with the monogram HW. Helen had her own studio by 1881. Helen and Hannah influenced each other's work and the sisters shared a studio, working together in the 1890's. However, it was Helen who was recognised as the particularly talented artist and she was invited to join the staff of the Glasgow School of Art in 1895.

### **CONSTANCE WALTON (1865-1960)**

Constance was a talented botanical watercolourist and she produced many exceptional examples. She concentrated on her painting rather than decorative arts. In the late 1880's she travelled and studied under the Krugs then in Colarossi's Studio in Paris. She developed a talent for interior friezes. Constance was the closest in age and the most influenced by George. They worked very closely together, for example in the Buchanan Street Tea Rooms and the Kodak Interiors. Constance was well known in the art circles in Glasgow and her work shows similarities with other woman artists working at the time, for example Katherine Cameron, sister of Glasgow Boy David Young Cameron.

### **CECILE WALTON (1891-1956)**

Cecile, the third generation of artist in the family, was a talented painter, illustrator and sculptor and the eldest of four children to Edward Arthur and his wife Helen Law. She and her husband Eric were two of the moving spirits of the Edinburgh chapter of the Symbolist movement in the early 20th century. Cecile attended the Edinburgh College of Art, where she took a sculpture class. While still a student, Walton was elected to the Society of Scottish Artists in 1908, exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy from 1909 and the Royal Glasgow Institute from 1910, and she showed at the Royal Academy in London from 1913. Walton also studied at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris for two winters and spent some time in Florence.