

AUGUST JOHN PICTURES

SIR, I BELIEVE THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND OCCASION --- LIVING MEMBER OF THE EXHIBITION. WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO TELL US SOMETHING OF THIS EXHIBITION.

WELL, I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IT, AND DURING THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS I WANTED TO DO IT MORE AND MORE. I KNEW THAT A GENERATION WAS GROWING UP THAT HADN'T SEEN AS I HAD SEEN THE EARLY ... DRAWINGS, HADN'T VISITED AS I VISITED THE SHOW AT THE CARFAX GALLERY WHEN WE WERE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED WITH THE WONDERFUL PHENOMENON THAT THE FINEST ... DRAUGHTSMAN THAT ENGLAND HAD EVER HAD WAS A BORN AND A GREAT COLORIST. IT SEEMED MUCH TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, AND WE HAVE NEVER - AT LEAST MY GENERATION, OR I MYSELF - HAVE NEVER FULLY AWAKED OUT OF THAT DREAM OF HOPE. WHAT COULD WE NOT DO, WHAT WOULD HE NOT DO. HE IS INDEED AN OLD MAN, AND I WANT THE YOUNG WHOSE WORK I DON'T VERY MUCH APPROVE OF I WANT THE YOUNG WHO ARE LEAD TO BELIEVE THAT CONSTRUCTION AND DRAWING AND ESPECIALLY THE DRAWING SUCH AS JOHN COULD DO ARE NOT WELL WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT, I WANT THEM TO COME AND SEE, I WANT THEM TO AND AND SEE WHAT IT WAS THAT MADE US BELIEVE AND MADE THE OBSTINATE OF US STILL BELIEVE. I WANT THEM TO COME IN THOUSANDS. IT WILL GIVE THEM PLEASURE, AND, BELIEVE ME I SPEAK AS IT WERE WERE DIRECTLY TO EVERY YOUNG PAINTER IN ENGLAND, MY BOY OR MY GIRL, A VISIT HERE WOULD DO YOU GOOD. THAT IS REALLY WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

THAT REALLY WAS VERY FIND. . . . . VERY MUCH EASIER TO TALK ABOUT THAN DO. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOW US ANYTHING. YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU TWO OF THE PICTURES, DO COME ALONG.

ALMOST THE ~~NICEST~~ NICEST HEAD HE EVER PAINTED.

ALWAYS INSPIRED BY THE FAMILY. ABSOLUTELY.

THAT IS VERY INTERESTING TO ME BECAUSE IT IS HIS VERY LAST PICTURE. ~~HE~~ FINISHED IT ~~OFF~~ ~~SENDING~~ IT TO THE SHOW.

QUITE RECENTLY. AS IT WAS ONLY JUST . . . . FINE THING, FINE THING TO HAVE A GRAND AND GRAND IN ITS COLOUR.



OLD MAN TO DO A DAM FINE PICTURE. ONE-MAN SHOW.

WHICH SIDE DO YOU WANT TO GO? SEE THE MICROPHONE, START TALKING THERE.

GERALD, JOHN'S PORTRAIT OF THAT GREAT IRISHMAN BERNARD SHAW.... HE PAINTED AT LEAST ~~TWO~~ THREE OF THEM, AND THESE ARE THE TWO BEST I HAVE EVER SEEN, THE ONE ON THE LEFT ... SHAW BOUGHT THEM ALL BY THE WAY, HE BOUGHT THEM FROM JOHN AND HE WAS DELIGHTED ... HAVING PAID HIS CHEQUE HE STUCK TO THE ONE ON THE LEFT FOR HIMSELF; THAT HAS BEEN LEFT TO US FOR THE SHAW MUSEUM. THE ONE ON THE LEFT HAS BEEN BOUGHT FOR SOME YEARS.

THE PICTURE OF SHAW ON THE RIGHT, HE SEEMS TO BE ASLEEP..... THEY WERE STAYING WITH LADY GREGORY AT ... MOMENT AFTER A MORE THAN JOLLY... HE STOPPED, HIS EYES SHUT.

OBVIOUSLY JOHN JUMPED FOR HIS PALETTE AND IN THE UNACCUSTOMED, UNEXPECTED SILENCE

HE PAINTED WHAT I BELIEVE THE VERY FINEST PORTRAIT OF SHAW IN THE WORLD. AFTER ALL, SHAW WAS A VERY GREAT LITERARY FIGURE AND JOHN IS A VERY GREAT PORTRAIT PAINTER. WHAT WOULD WE NOT GIVE FOR A DRAWING OR A PAINTING OF A YOUNG SHAKESPEAR ~~OR~~ IF HOLBEIN HAD LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO DO IT! NOT OF COURSE THAT I REGARD SHAW AS GOOD AS ~~SHAKESPEAR~~ SHAKESPEARE.