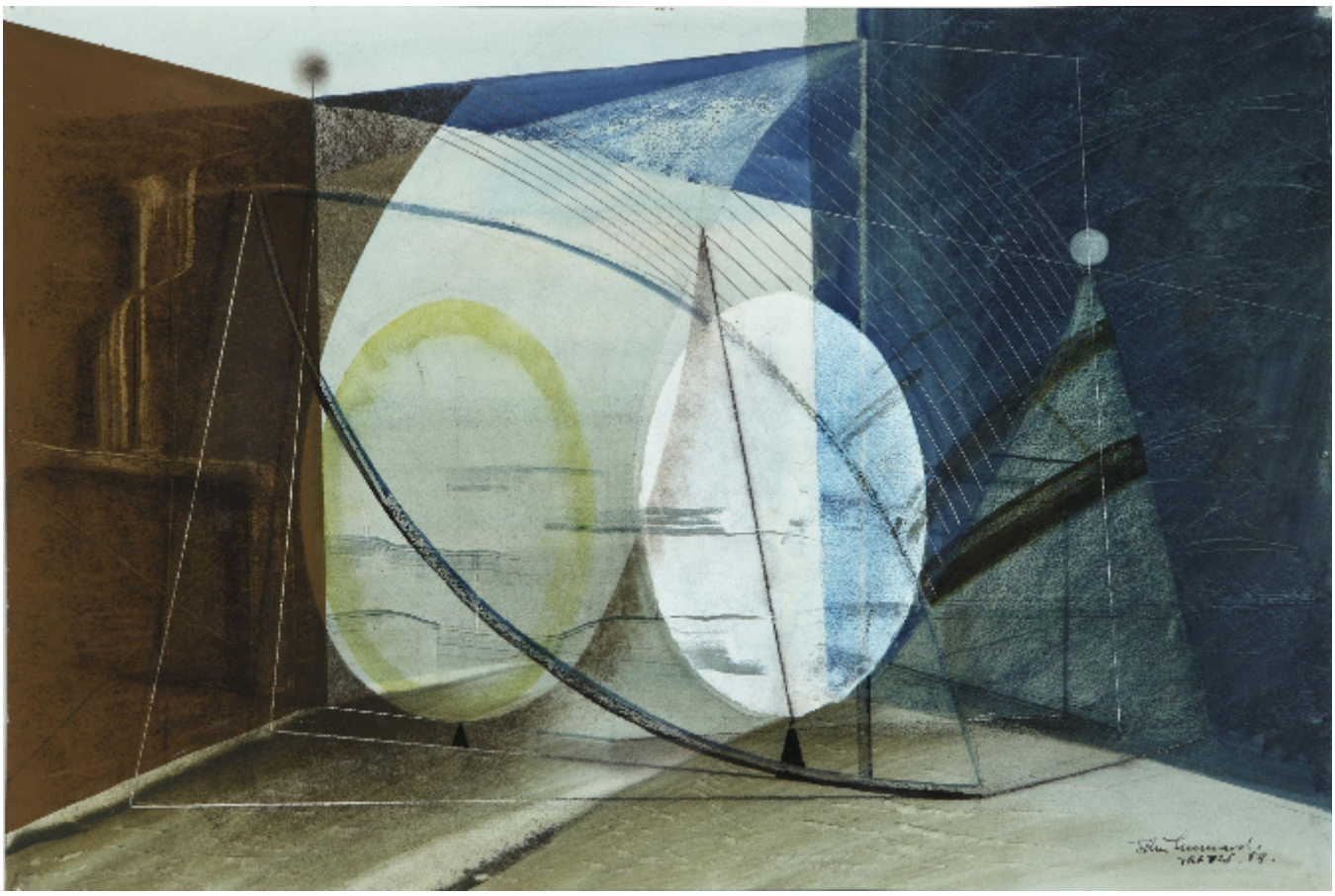
Phantom, 1959

John Tunnard

Sold



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REF: 10870

Height: 38 cm (15")

Width: 60 cm (23.6")

Description

Signed, numbered and dated 'John Tunnard/TRG 26. 59.' (lower right)
Titled, signed and dated verso

Pencil, black ink, coloured crayon, watercolour and bodycolour
Watercolour verso
Entered into Tunnards's ledger as TRG 26 (Trethinick Gouache), with the Greek letters Theta Theta.

PROVENANCE : Private Collection, Dr Brian Whitton, purchased 1996. Private collection of a Director of Thomas Agnew, London.

LITERATURE : A. Peat and B. Whitton, John Tunnard Life and Work, p. 190, no. 705.

EXHIBITED : McRoberts & Tunnard Gallery, John Tunnard, November-December 1959, no. 43.

Durlacher, New York, John Tunnard, November 1960, no. 14.

University of Durham, Grey College, John Tunnard, September-November 2000, no. 57, as 'Chenue'.

Study Gallery, Poole, Dorset Quiet Waters. Prunella Clough, Jeremy Gardiner, Peter Joyce, John Tunnard, April - June 2002, as 'Chenue'.

Sheet Length 55.9 cm., 22 in., Height 38.10 cm., 15 in., In a silvered moulded frame.
Frame Length 82 cm., 32 1/8 in., Height 53 cm.,24 ¾ in.,

Phantom acquired the title Chenue while held with Thomas Agnew, but there is no doubt from Tunnard's own records and the inscription on the reverse of the painting that Phantom is the correct title.

Titled, signed & dated verso, with a simple seascape watercolour wash

'A painting by John Tunnard begins in the order of nature; it traverses the phantasms of the imagination; and then ends in the order of art, which is an analogy of the mystical mathematics of the City of Heaven.' (Herbert Read)

Phantom is an exceptional picture executed at the height of Tunnard's space age' period.

The work was entered into Tunnard's ledger as TRG 26, with the Greek letters theta theta as a personal reminder of the work. Tunnard kept sparse records at this time and only logged what he considered his best works. 'Every picture to me must be an adventure…It is the excitement of creation and the excitement of perhaps getting down some line that is not merely an accepted piece of composition… I think that each painter should follow his own bent…I don't think that a school of painting should be formed consciously'. John Tunnard

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Phantom was shown at the the McRoberts & Tunnard Gallery one man show as No 43 alongside 31 gouaches and 18 oils. The show was very successful, David Nicholson (Arts News & Review) commented ' Tunnard's name is not as familiar as the merit of his work warrants for here is a very arresting talent indeed. I predict that the impact will be most gratifying to all concerned with this new venture. Certainly all the ingredients of a success d'esteem are present.. In short, this is an exhibition of major impact and importance'.

Phantom was also shown at the Durlacher exhibition in 1960, no 14. Durlacher, one of the iconic dealers in 20th century art, sold important drawings and paintings to American museums and collectors and contributed to such significant collections as the Sachs collection, the Widener collection, the Frick, the Fogg, and the Cleveland Museum, among others. 'His work appears to have gained a sensuous richnesss and a ...

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