



**PROANTIC**  
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## Highland Crofts 1949 / Major Scottish Landscape By W.g. Gillies (1898-1973)

7 500 EUR



Signature : WILLIAM GEORGE GILLIES (1898-1973)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

### Description

Superb watercolor by William George Gillies (1898-1973), a major figure in 20th-century Scottish painting and a distinguished member of the Royal Scottish Academy..This work, entitled "Highland Crofts"(which can be translated as "Highland farms"), painted around 1949, belongs to one of the most accomplished periods of William George Gillies' career. This particularly sought-after period in the artist's output, corresponds to a full stylistic maturity in which his pictorial language achieves a remarkable balance between structure and chromatic freedom.The composition unfolds a hilly landscape typical of the Highlands, treated in a vibrant, subtle palette featuring deep greens, warm ochres and nuanced blues. Gillies expresses his sensitivity to the Scottish land, poetically

### Dealer

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translating the harmony between nature and rural habitat. The touch, both free and masterful, lends the whole a lively, luminous atmosphere, characteristic of his best watercolors. Here we find the influence of post-impressionism and the Scottish colorist tradition, in a highly personal interpretation of landscape, which makes Gillies one of the most important artists of his generation alongside the great names of the Edinburgh school. The work is titled and identified on the back by an antique label from the prestigious gallery Aitken Dott & Son, mentioning:- the title "Highland Crofts"- the technique: watercolor- dimensions (20½ x 27 inches)- a date circa 1949- an inventory number (No. 1772, 1969) This provenance reinforces the authenticity and interest of the work, from a historic dealer founded in 1842, renowned for the quality of its selections. A high-quality watercolor, representative of William George Gillies' work at its peak, combining freshness of execution, richness of color and depth of composition.

William George Gillies (1898-1973) was one of Scotland's leading painters of the 20th century, renowned for his luminous landscapes deeply rooted in the Scottish soil. Born in Haddington, East Lothian, he studied at the Edinburgh College of Art, where he later taught for many years, training a whole generation of artists. Early on, Gillies developed a personal style, nourished by post-impressionism and close observation of nature. His work focuses mainly on Scottish landscapes - Borders, Lothian and Highlands - which he interprets with great freedom of touch and remarkable color sensitivity. His approach favors the construction of colored planes and a simplification of forms, giving his compositions a harmony that is both decorative and deeply evocative. A respected artist during his lifetime, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) and also received distinctions such as the ARA (Associate of the Royal Academy, London). He played a key role in the revival of twentieth-century Scottish painting,

alongside other important figures of the Edinburgh School. Alongside oil painting, Gillies excelled in watercolor, a technique in which he expressed all the freshness of his eye with spontaneity. His works from the 1940s-1950s, a period of full maturity, are today particularly sought-after for their balance between structure, color and freedom of execution. Today, William George Gillies is represented in numerous public collections, including the Scottish National Gallery, and remains an essential reference for modern British landscape painting.