

Collections 1930s

Still Life With Hyacinths - Alfred Janes



Alfred Janes attributed his skill in creating still-lives to his having been born over a fruit & flower shop in Swansea's Castle Square.

His distinctive technique was described by Mel Gooding who curated Janes' retrospective at the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in 1999, "The extraordinary still life works of the '30s were notoriously slow in the making, being painted over several months with a meticulous concentration not only upon the objects depicted, but on the over-all design of the picture. They are complex compositions in which every detail is held tight in a structured formal harmony."

Janes used a simple technique of outlining the depicted objects with a linear incision (made with a penknife) and later "...complicated the technique by marking a polygonal grid on to the board before painting the subject, and then retracing and incising it into the finished painting. In this way he was able to achieve a unique crystalline brilliance of image." (Alfred Janes 1911-1999 p.5)

To see more works by Alfred Janes in the Glynn Vivian permanent collection, see Portrait of Vernon Watkins.