

Review of exhibition of painting by John Jones
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By W T Oliver

Bread and Jam in Oils

Paintings by John Jones, Park Square
Gallery, St Pauls St, Leeds, until March 30

John Jones, whose still life works are on view at the Park Square Gallery, Leeds, is known as an imaginative filmmaker and a stimulating lecturer. This show comes as a reminder that he is also an exceptionally accomplished painter.

Trained under Coldstream and Claude Rodgers at the Slade, he paints with clear-eyed perception the common objects found in the home - a cut loaf, leeks fresh from the greengrocer's, a bottle of ketchup, jars of jam, even potatoes. This may surprise those who chiefly have thought of him chiefly as a sympathetic interpreter of contemporary art.

You do not need to spend long with his paintings to appreciate that they spring from the same relish for life which has led him into his many creative activities. For they are direct, fresh and vigorous.

At the same time they are closely-considered compositions in which every object has its place and every note of colour, every gradation of tone, plays its part. His skill and sensitivity show themselves memorably in "Biscuits" and "White Book" in which the range of tone is restricted and we see how surely he has constructed his design.

The rounded shape of the decanter in "Biscuits" and the noble form of the large vase in "Indian Pot" are perfectly realised and set down with precision in the picture space. To his native zest, therefore, John Jones adds a fine discipline.



White book
oil on canvas, 55 x 44.3cm
1973, University of Leeds
Art Collection