



## Geoffrey Woolsey Birks YWS (1929-1993)

Geoffrey Woolsey Birks was born in Leeds, Yorkshire in 1929. He attended Bradford College of Art for 2 years as a full-time student and studied privately in the tuition of F.C. Jones RA. He worked mainly in the textile trade in the industrial towns of Yorkshire and the North of England, rising to the position of Production Director.

Realising that the Northern industrial scene was in decline along with its inherent characters, and skyline, he resigned his position as company director to become a full-time professional artist and rented a studio above a chip shop in Pudsey, Leeds. He decided to capture some of these fast disappearing aspects of the northern skyline and its characters. In doing so he 'caught' the humour and atmosphere of the Northern character both in the people and landscape. His 'trade mark' being his version of a black cat, Whiskers, which appears somewhere in all his pictures.

He was an internationally recognised artist, having exhibited his work in the U.K, Canada, U.S.A, Australia and South Africa. His work is listed on The Art Sales Index and has sold successfully at auction in the UK and Canada.

After a long fight against cancer throughout which he continued business as usual, he died at his home in Pudsey in December 1993.

His legacy is the unique way in which he recorded a 'fast disappearing way of life'.

