

RICHARD GREEN

FRANCIS CAMPBELL BOILEAU CADELL RSA RWS

1883 - Edinburgh - 1937

Ref: CE 133

Jean Cadell among trees



Signed and dated lower right: *F.C.B. Cadell - 12 -*

Oil on panel: 18 x 14 in / 45.7 x 35.6 cm

Frame size: 24 ½ x 21 in / 62.2 x 53.3 cm

In a period gilded hollow frame



Artworks are sold subject to our Terms and Conditions of Sale; copies are available upon request

www.richardgreen.com

RICHARD GREEN

Provenance:

Given by the artist to Sir Patrick Ford (1880-1945), Westerdunes, North Berwick and Edinburgh, then by descent

Literature:

Tom Hewlett and Duncan Macmillan, *FCB Cadell: The Life and Works of a Scottish Colourist 1883-1937*, Lund Humphries, Farnham 2011, illus. in colour fig.26, p.36, as *Girl in white dress and hat – sunlight trees*

Jean Cadell stands in a slim, full-length white summer dress and wide-brimmed straw hat decorated with a light blue ribbon, which matches the bow at her neck. Sunlight falls directly on the crown of her hat, across her shoulders and on the left of her skirt, but the rest of this picturesque landscape is recorded in delectable, dappled shade. Brilliant, impressionistic touches of colour enliven the painting as Cadell captures the sparkling sensation of light through verdant foliage from white and luminous yellow, through myriad shades of green, from sage to emerald and viridian, creating extraordinary depth with fleeting directional strokes. Kenneth McConkey suggests Cadell's application of paint may have been inspired by the late work of Manet as 'he endeavours to convey the immediacy of his experience in brilliant slashing strokes'.¹ Whistler was another important influence, in particular his *Symphony in White No. 2: The Little White Girl* of 1864 (Tate Britain), which had been exhibited alongside paintings by Cadell at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, in 1902. Cadell admired Whistler's charismatic character, as well as his work, writing to a friend that the artist 'was a marvellous painter, the most exquisite of all the 'moderns'.²

While Cadell's exceptional brushwork demonstrates a newfound freedom, he also depicts details, such as his sister's elegant features (familiar from photographs at the National Portrait Gallery), as well as dramatic swathes of colour in the foreground. Cadell's younger sister, Jean Dunlop Cadell (1884-1967), would become a celebrated actress, best known for her role as Mrs Campbell in the Ealing Comedy, *Whiskey Galore!*, 1949.

¹ Kenneth McConkey, *Edwardian Portraits: Images of an Age of Opulence*, Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge 1987, p.215.

² TJ Honeyman, *Three Scottish Colourists*, Thomas Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh 1950, p.83.