

# Rudolf Sauter

Observations from Nature

Spring 1916

works in pastel by Rudolf Sauter, PS, RI, RBA (1895-1977)

HARRY MOORE-GWYN

BRITISH PICTURES

exhibition as part of stand C6, Art Antiques London (12th-19th June 2013)

Albert Memorial West Lawn, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (opposite the Royal Albert Hall)

## Sauter, Galsworthy and the Great War

In May 1916, the twenty-one year old Rudolf Sauter embarked on one of a number of visits to the home of his uncle, the Nobel prize-winning novelist, John Galsworthy. It was here that Sauter painted the majority of these beautiful pastels, many of them miniature masterpieces in this most difficult of mediums. The subject matter was as far from the drama of the Western Front as might be imagined - the changing nature of the English landscape, its fierce weather, but also its intense and subtle variations in light and mood. The wild expansive countryside and skyline near Dartmoor, where Galsworthy had a home, is the subject of so many of the studies – which range from sunsets and passing storms to bonfires in ploughed fields and views across to the remote Devon coast. Undiscovered until recently, the collection of pastels were found in a folio case long after the artist's death, simply inscribed "Designs, studies and ideas for pictures" (see the inside front cover).

Entries in Galsworthy's Wartime diaries recognise Rudolf as a regular companion of the novelist. Perhaps *in loco parentis*, Galsworthy supported a young nephew who was unable to play a conventional part in the War, his own father, Georg having recently been interned in prison in Wakefield for no other reason than that he was German by birth. Rudolf himself was to meet the same fate enduring his own internment later in the War at Alexandra Palace from 1918-19. His studies of his time there are a fascinating record of the treatment of

internees and examples can be seen in the collection of the Imperial War Museum in London. The experience must have been a draining one for the Harrow-educated Rudolf, how although partly German, had adopted Britain as his native country. His internment was also to have a significant bearing on Galsworthy's own disenchantment with the War.

Following his release, Sauter established himself as a successful painter, illustrator and writer in his own right. He illustrated Galsworthy's works and became the novelist's heir following his death in 1933. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of British Artists, the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours and the Pastel Society (the latter three of which he was also elected member). He also exhibited abroad achieving an Honourable Mention at the Salon in Paris, and holding one man shows New York and South Africa. Despite his continuing success he exhibited less frequently later in life, in part helped by the fortune that supported him as Galsworthy's heir. A fire destroying most of his work in about 1980 also partly accounts for the scarcity of his work. This small collection of previously unrecorded studies is as strong evidence as any of its need for re-appraisal following decades of neglect.

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## Catalogue

(all works are by Rudolf Sauter and are pastel on paper unless otherwise indicated)



1. *Moon rising over Dartmoor*  
(13 by 15 cm)
2. *Cirrus clouds*  
(15 by 25 cm) (detail illustrated front cover)



3. *Meadows with yellow flowers*  
Dated on paper: May 23/16 (13 by 15 cm)
4. *Pink sunset over the hills*  
(13 by 15 cm) (detail illustrated back cover)



5. *Dark hills, dusk*  
(15 by 25 cm)



6. *Windswept clouds*  
Dated on paper: *May 21/1916*  
(15 by 22.5 cm)

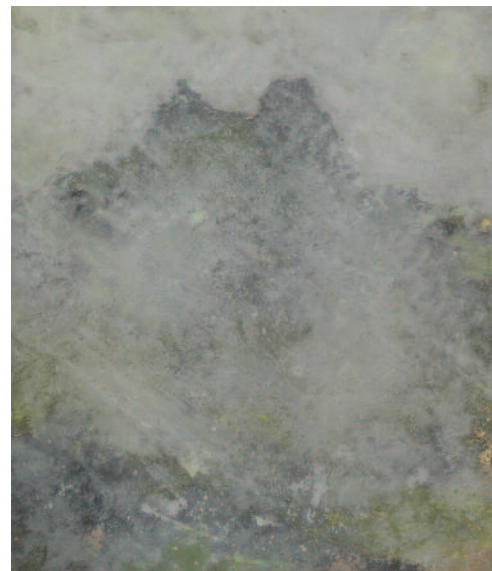


7. *Still life*  
(17 by 15 cm)





8. *Cart and horse by a shop front*  
(15 by 23 cm)



9. *Storm over a tor*  
(15.2 by 12.5 cm)



10. *Pink sunset over sea*  
(15 by 21 cm)



11. *Passing spring showers*  
(13 by 15 cm)



12. *Sun emerging through fog*  
(13 by 15 cm)



13. *Sun through a thin mist*  
(13 by 15 cm)





14. *Horse and plough by bonfires*  
(15 by 25 cm)



15. *Figures walking by the Serpentine*  
(15 by 23 cm)



16. *Wild flowers*  
(15 by 12.5 cm)



17. *Rain on a busy high street*, signed l.r., pencil  
(15 by 25 cm)



18. *Cloud study in pink and blue*  
(13 by 15 cm)



19. *Tree on the brow of a hill*  
(13 by 15 cm)





20.     *Nightfall near Dartmoor*  
          (15 by 25 cm)





21.      *Wooded landscape at sunset*  
(15 by 25 cm)



22. *Blue skies emerging after rain*  
(13 by 15 cm)



23. *Passing shower illuminated by sunlight*  
Dated on paper: May 24/16  
(13 by 15 cm)



24. *Pink Dartmoor*  
(15 by 25 cm)





25. *Green Dartmoor*  
(15 by 25 cm)



26. *Stormy weather over Dartmoor*  
(15 by 25 cm)





27. *Sun rays emerging through cloud*  
(13 by 15 cm)



28. *Man and plough on a hillside*  
(13 by 15 cm)

29. *Distant fire under blue skies*  
(15 by 25 cm) (illustrated this page)

30. *Winding road*  
(13 by 15 cm) (illustrated top.left)

31. *Skyscape with birds*  
(13 by 15 cm) (illustrated top.right)

32. *Mauve cloud study*  
(13 by 15 cm) (illustrated lower right)

33. *Clouds with emerging sun*  
(13 by 15 cm) (illustrated lower left)



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