

LOT 103

3rd December 2025

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Cecil Lawrence Burns (British, circa 1863-1929) - 'Bijapur, India', watercolour, signed lower right, inscribed verso, 22.5cm x 29.5cm, within a gilt frame. Note: Burns (c1863-1929) was a principal of Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts between 1897-1899, before moving to Principal of the Bombay School of Art (1899-1918). He was also a member of the New England Art Club. Forbes India in their article 'The foreign eye: How international artists have seen India' by Kishore Singh November 19, 2015, states: 'Cecil Burns's influence on Indian art has been greater than what many artists in the country realise. As art teacher as well as head of the Sir JJ School of Art in Bombay (now Mumbai) in the early twentieth century, he was responsible for its strict adherence to the tenets of British realistic art, a tradition that continues till today. Unlike in Calcutta (now Kolkata), where E.B. Havell replaced strictly academic training with traditional and classical Indian art, Bombay (Mumbai) remained the vanguard of European art practice rooted in naturalism. Along with oil painting, Burns was also responsible for introducing drawing classes and a school of architecture... Among his students was M.V. Dhurandhar, one of the greatest artists of his time... Unfortunately, most of Burns's body of work painted in India was lost in a fire on the Bombay dock on his return journey home to Southampton, England'.

Estimate: £150 - £250

Condition Report

Under glass, very slight discolouration to paper very minor spotting to sky centre.

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