

## Scottish Paintings & Sculpture (466)

Thu, 9th Jun 2016, Edinburgh

### Lot 54

**Estimate:** £200000 - £300000 + Fees

**FRANCIS CAMPBELL BOILEAU CADELL R.S.A., R.S.W.  
(SCOTTISH 1883-1937) A STILL LIFE OF ROSES**

Signed, oil on board

38cm x 46cm (15in x 18in)

**Provenance:** The Wood Collection

**Exhibited:** Stirling Fine Art Association, 1932 no.2

#### Note:

Cadell admirers will know that he made a small number of versions of this particular composition; a beautiful, angular cobalt-blue jug filled with delicate pink roses, set against the lilac ground of his Ainslie Place studio walls. A charming feature of many of the Colourists' work is the reoccurrence of particular props in their still lifes; in this case we can see the same jade green bowl that sits on the mantelpiece in Cadell's The Wedgewood Vase.

It was the early 1920s and Cadell, having moved away from his more Impressionistic, Edwardian-era style after WW1, was fully immersed in the Modernist innovations which were taking hold on the Continent at the time. Pure colour is used to create volume and form; texture - be it smooth porcelain or crisp white linen - is suggested by his brushwork, and inventive blue outlines set the palette singing and lend the work a graphic, highly distinctive aesthetic.

Though this period of bright, sophisticated still lifes is among the most popular area of his oeuvre with today's collectors, their reception in conservative Edinburgh society at the time couldn't have been more different. Cadell became the subject of a month-long debate in the Scotsman, which became known as "The Bolshevism of Colour". His high-hued and stylised renderings caused much controversy amongst the traditionalists who frequented the RSA at the time, while other notable art world figures sprang to the defence of his parameter -pushing treatment of the still life genre.

