

**Sale Name:** Fine Canadian Art Auction - September 8th - October 18th 2022

**LOT 89 - Leonard Hutchinson - Birch Tree**



**Artist Description** Leonard Hutchinson (1896 – 1980 CAD) RCA Born in Manchester, England, in 1896 and moved to Canada in 1912, settling in Tillsonburg, Ontario. When the First World War broke out, Leonard Hutchinson returned to England, enlisting in the Royal Military Corps, serving throughout the war. After returning to Canada, Leonard Hutchinson started sketching scenes around Tillsonburg, then best known for growing tobacco. Soon after, he moved to Hamilton where he worked as a graphic artist by day, while studying art at night at the Hamilton Technical Institute, also known as the Hamilton School of Art. His teacher was artist John S. Gordon. During the 1920s, Leonard Hutchinson painted in oil and watercolour and started to turn his attention to block prints. Today, Leonard Hutchinson is best known for his colour woodblock prints, especially those done in the 1930s and early 1940s. The National Gallery of Canada has a collection of 16 woodblocks, including a half dozen colour ones: Burlington Bay, Lake Winds, The Ravine, Twilight, Old Ontario Village and Windy Morning. Leonard Hutchinson was also known for his black-and-white woodblocks, many of which showed men and women working to earn a living, depicting loggers, farmers, fishermen and steelworkers. Among his subjects were working men and women advocating for their rights, including one called Worker's Picnic. His subject matter also reflected the harsh time of the Great Depression and early Second World War period. His woodblocks were a powerful vehicle to tell the story of working class Canadians and their struggle to earn a living during a difficult time in Canadian history.

began teaching art at the Hamilton Technical Institute in 1932, and was appointed as a Governor of the Hamilton Art Gallery in 1936, a post he maintained for about 10 years. Hutchinson was an active member of the Canadian Society of Graphic Art, Society of Canadian Painter-Etchers and Engravers, and the Ontario Society of Artists. He was a founder of the Hamilton Chapter of the Artists' Union. He exhibited with and was elected as a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He turned away from printmaking during the early 1940s, though the reasons aren't clear. He worked as a graphic artist, a construction foreman, designed jewellery, and taught art to adults with disabilities. In 1967, Leonard Hutchinson received a Centennial Medal for his contributions to Canadian art.

### Description

*Linocut*

*No Visible Signature*

Sight - 8.5 ins x 9 ins (21.59 cm x 22.86 cm)

### Provenance:

Private Collection

**Quantity: 1**



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