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Daniel O'Neill (1920-1974)

LATE SPRING, c. late 1950s

oil on canvas

signed lower right

20 by 24in. (50.80 by 60.96cm)

Provenance:

Victor Waddington Gallery, Dublin;

Where purchased in 1957 [the year the gallery closed] by the present owners

Daniel O'Neill exhibited at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art in 1944 and the following year met Victor Waddington. Waddington was the leading contemporary gallerist in Ireland at that time and offered O'Neill a contract with his gallery. It was this pivotal association that allowed the artist to leave his job as an electrician and dedicate himself to painting full-time. O'Neill exhibited successfully and regularly with the gallery for over a decade when Waddington closed its doors c.1957. It was during the closing down period when *Late Spring* was purchased by the present owners.

There is a melancholy and a sense of loss evident in this work which recalls O'Neill's interior oil, entitled *The Bedroom* or *The Wake*. In both there is a disconnect between the figures and an expressive use of colour and paint application. In *Late Spring* the sense of loss *may* be interpreted metaphorically as the title would indicate. Bearing in mind the time when the painting was executed its mood and tone are apt for this period of change in the artist's career.

€20,000-€30,000 (£16,810-£25,210 approx.)