



**64**  
**Basil Blackshaw HRHA RUA (b.1932)**

SILVER, c.1950s  
oil on canvas  
signed lower left  
20 by 24in. (51 by 61cm)

*Provenance:*  
Commissioned by the present owner's family c.1950s;  
Thence by descent

As a painter Blackshaw has always found abundant inspiration in the immediate world around him. He grew up on a farm in Boardmills, near Ballynahinch, Co. Down, where his father kept stables and it is therefore not surprising that his subject matter has been dominated by the countryside and its lifestyle. Horses were an important part of life for the young Blackshaw and his early experience with them can be seen in his exceptional capacity for painting equine subjects. Indeed he met his fees at the Belfast College of Art from his earnings as a horse portraitist; the present work, which dates to the mid 1950s, was one such commission.

In May 2012 the F.E. McWilliam Gallery in conjunction with the RHA presented 'Blackshaw at 80', which featured over fifty works by the artist. Blackshaw's horses, along with other favourite animal subjects, formed a major part of the show.

€10,000-€15,000 (£8,260-£12,400 approx.)