

Fine Art / Wednesday, 11th May 2022 / Lot 41



LOT 41

Rodrigo Moynihan - 'Sleeping Soldier', 20th century oil on canvas, signed recto, titled to exhibition labels verso, 33cm x 38cm, within a painted and gilt composition frame. Exhibited: Royal Academy, 1949, catalogue no. 679; 'Rodrigo Moynihan: A Retrospective Exhibition' Royal Academy/Arts Council of Great Britain, 1978, catalogue no. 30; 'Rodrigo Moynihan: The End of the Picnic', Imperial War Museum, 1998, catalogue no. 13. Provenance: purchased by Elizabeth & John Taylor from the Royal Academy exhibition in 1949, thence by descent. Note: the artist's son John Moynihan quoted his mother saying, 'What I remember more about that opening was Elizabeth Taylor, the novelist, coming in, literally out of the blue - her husband John Taylor was in the RAF and buying a painting. We became great friends and regularly corresponded from then on. References: N.H. Reeve, 'Elizabeth Taylor: A Centenary Celebration' (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012) p.102; John Moynihan, 'Restless Lives: The Bohemian World of Rodrigo and Elinor Moynihan', (Sansom, 2002), p.56; Nicola Beauman, 'The Other Elizabeth Taylor' (Persephone Books, 2009) p.277. N.B. many exhibitions and references date this painting to the 1944 Royal Academy exhibition in error.

Estimate: £700 - £1,000

Condition Report

41. Previously cleaned and restored. The most recent clean has left the varnish to the face and left hand side, unusually. Paint a little thin along the bottom edge and left hand side, but probably original rather than due to over-cleaning. The face looks like it may have had touches of overpainting, but this is not highlighted by UV. However, UV does highlight a small touched-in scratch to the bottom right, and other small areas to the background, particularly the top left and top right corners. Minor craquelure. Frame with cracking to the composition, a small chip to the bottom left cresting and minor rubbing to extremities.