Twitter Thread by Dr Robert Bohan Artist

Dr Robert Bohan Artist
@RobertBohan

Thread: William Leech (1881-1968) was an Irish painter. He was a Post Impressionist who painted light & colour. Unknown outside of Ireland his pictures are a delight for the eye.



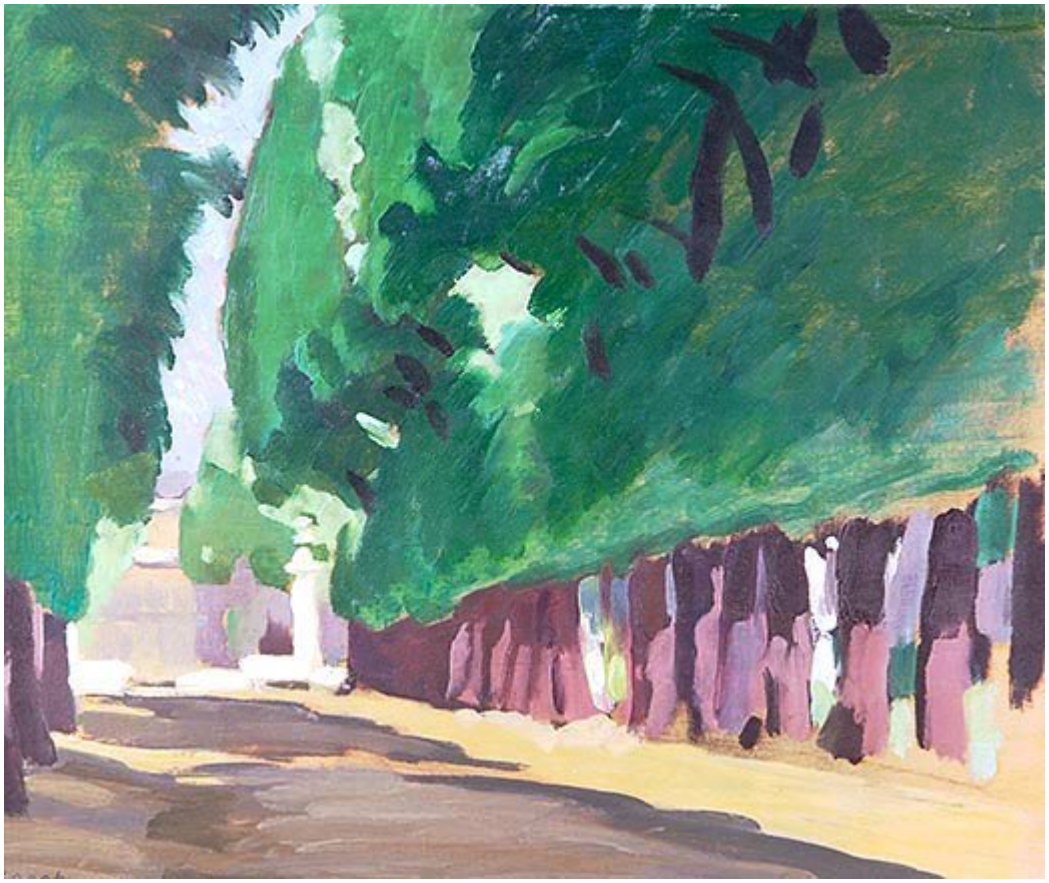
Born in Dublin into a professional Unionist family he went to the Metropolitan School & then the RHA Art School where he had the good luck to study under Walter Osborne. He left for France in 1901. (Images by Osborne)



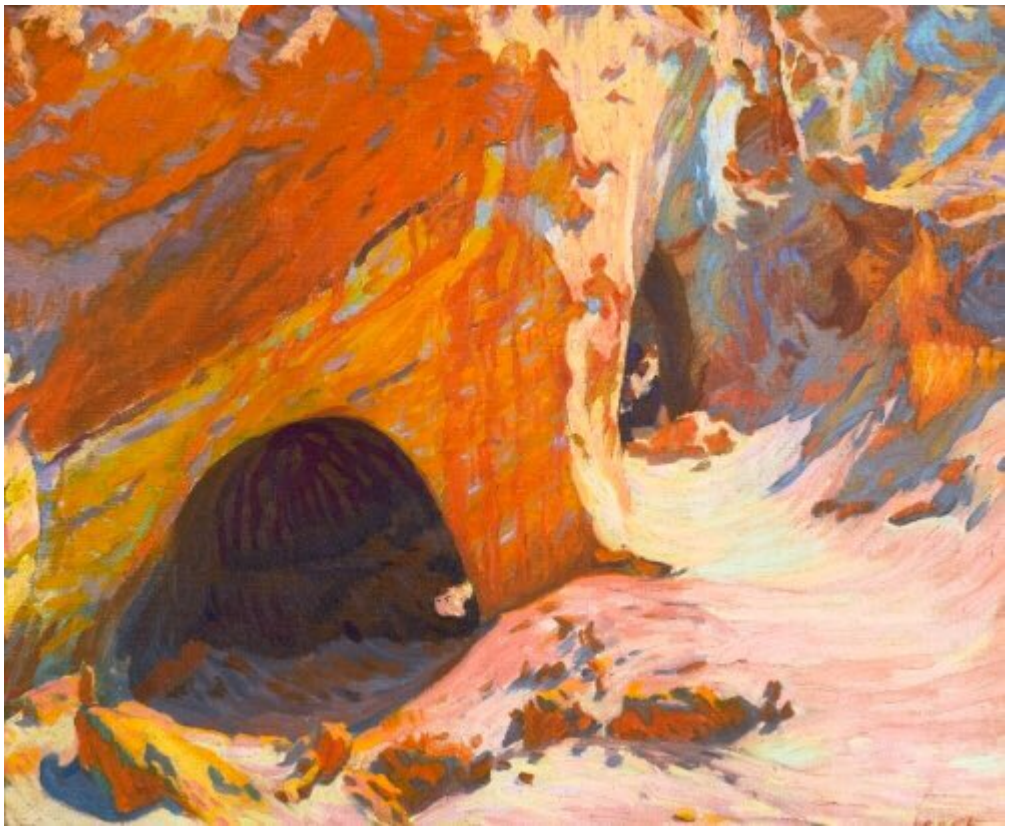
Today is the final day for Christmas deliveries for the Republic of Ireland. Please order ASAP so I have time to have them shipped. Thanks! https://t.co/eiIPiTd7CM

> Please Retweet
>
> Last day for Irish Republic Christmas Delivery
>
> My ink drawings are about joy, hope, love & empathy. When you buy one you can choose a second free*.
>
> Please order ASAP so I have time to pack & ship by 3PM today! pic.twitter.com/VB8ZtzNVPL
>
> — Dr Robert Bohan Artist (@RobertBohan) December 21, 2020

He spent time in France & was open to influences. Later Matisse & Derain were his lodestars. He was at the Académie Julian (the main studio for foreigners in Paris). He went on to Brittany (1903). Paris (1901), Beach, Dublin (c1906) & Concarneau (c1903) & Blue Nets (c1903)



Leech was back in Dublin in 1903. He tried as a society portrait painter but there was not the demand there. He was noted for his small plein air landscapes. He left for London (1910-14). Caves, Concarneau (c1910-3), Howth (c1909) & Playing by the Shore (c1910s) & Seascape (nd)



Based in London with his parents he regularly travelled to France. He was elected an RHA in 1910. Grasse (c1917), Midi Landscape (c1920s) & Barber Shop (c1909)



One of the highlights of Leech’s work are his snow scenes. Interior of a Cafe (c1909) & Snow Scene (c1912)



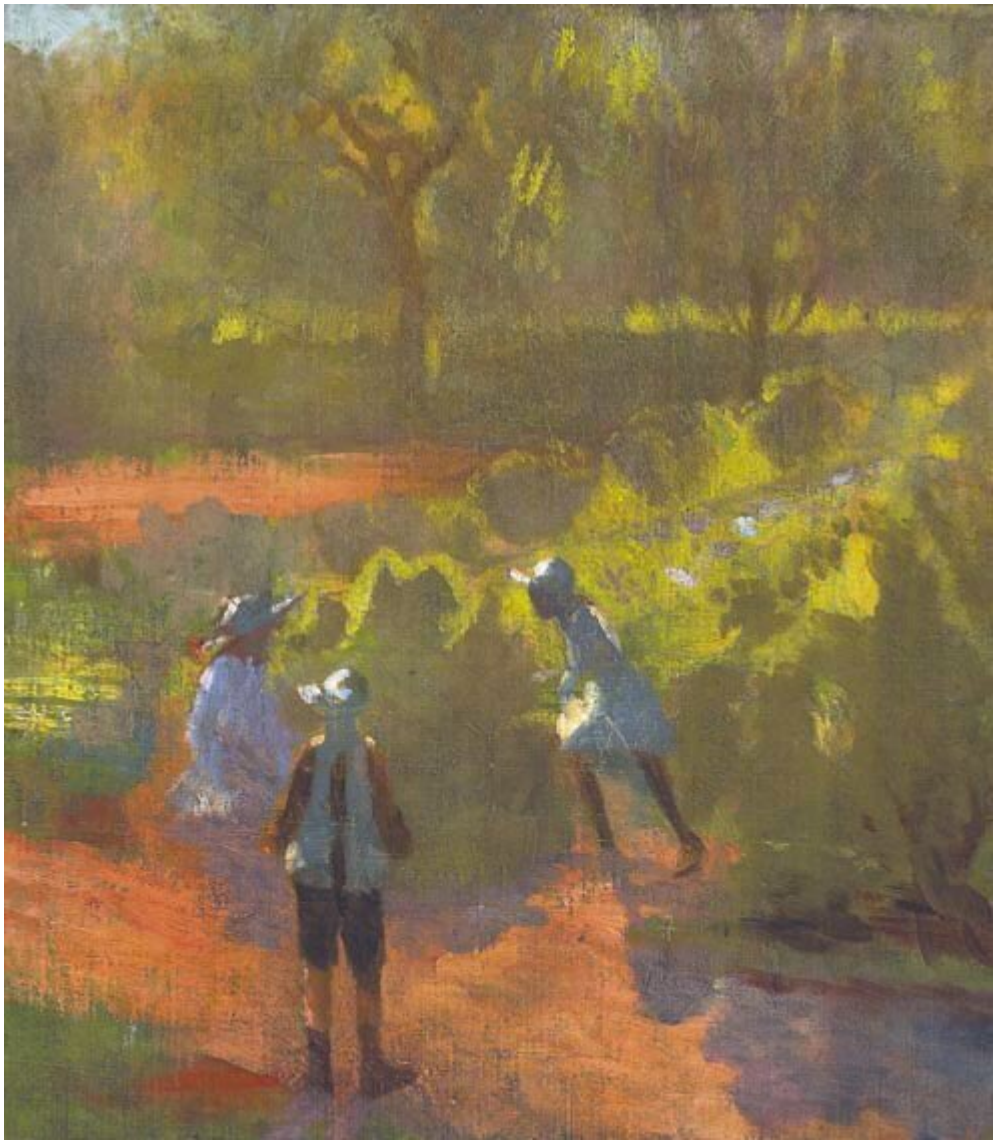
His Convent Garden (including his partner dressed as a novice) is considered his masterpiece. Convent Garden (c1913), Elizabeth (1910-12), Children on the Beach with Breakers (1912) & Girl with a Tinsel Scarf (c1912)



A particularly exciting part of his work are his series of aloe paintings which show his command of colour & light. The Sunshade (1913), Aloes (1914), Un Marin (1918) & Les Soeurs du Saint-Esprit (1912)


Leech

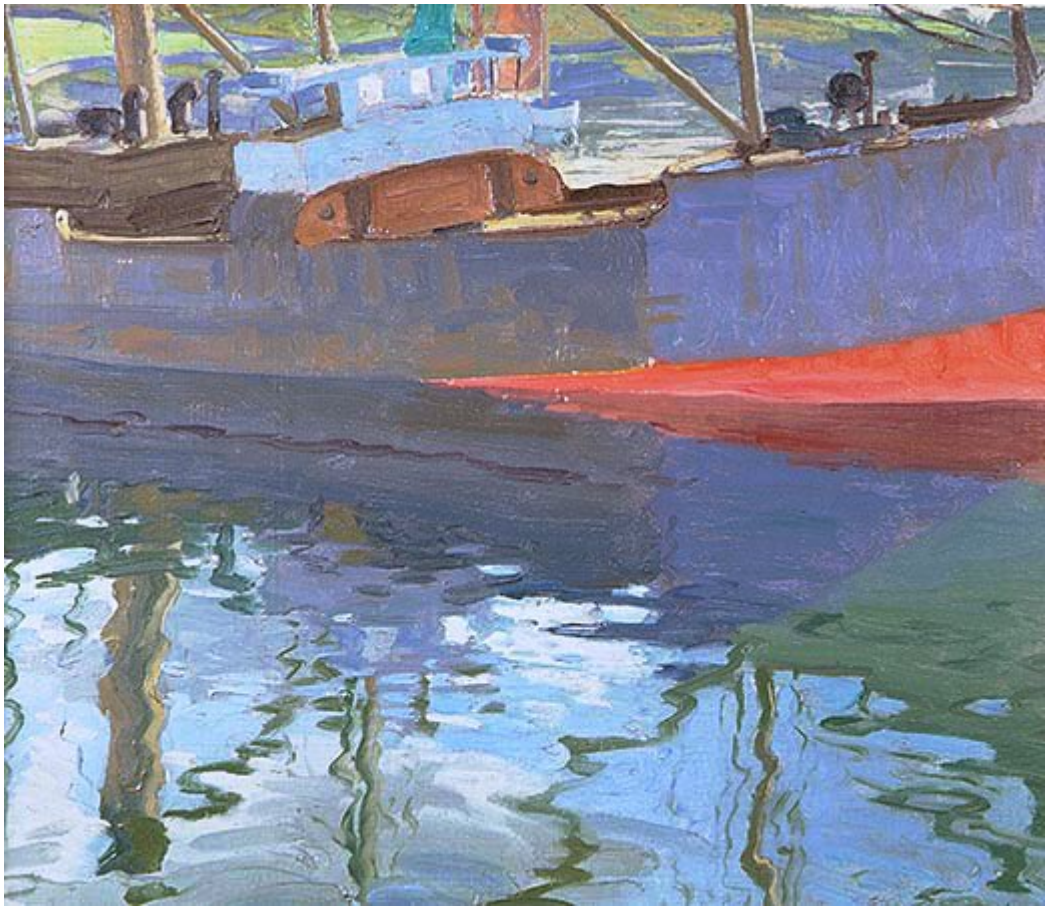
His portraits do not set out to flatter his subjects. For him light is always the main goal in his work. Three Children in a Summer Landscape (c1922), The Garden, Maida Vale, London (1920s), James Botterell (1926) & Aloes (1920s)



Another feature of his work is his painting of suburbia. These works, again, are his excuse to explore light as a kaleidoscope of colour. A Lawn (1930s), Regents Park, Summer (1937), The Pool of London (c1939) & Steps of the Cours (1930s)



Light in its reflection & refraction continued to be his key subject until his death. Reflections (c1930), Still Life with Tulips (c1930s), Bridge in Regents Park (c1930s) & Self-Portrait (nd)



A series of paintings of London landmarks was his response to WWII. His own studio was bombed out. St Giles, London (c1940s), The Norman Collonade, Christchurch Priory (c1949), Boats (c1940s) & Bowl of Fruit (c1944)



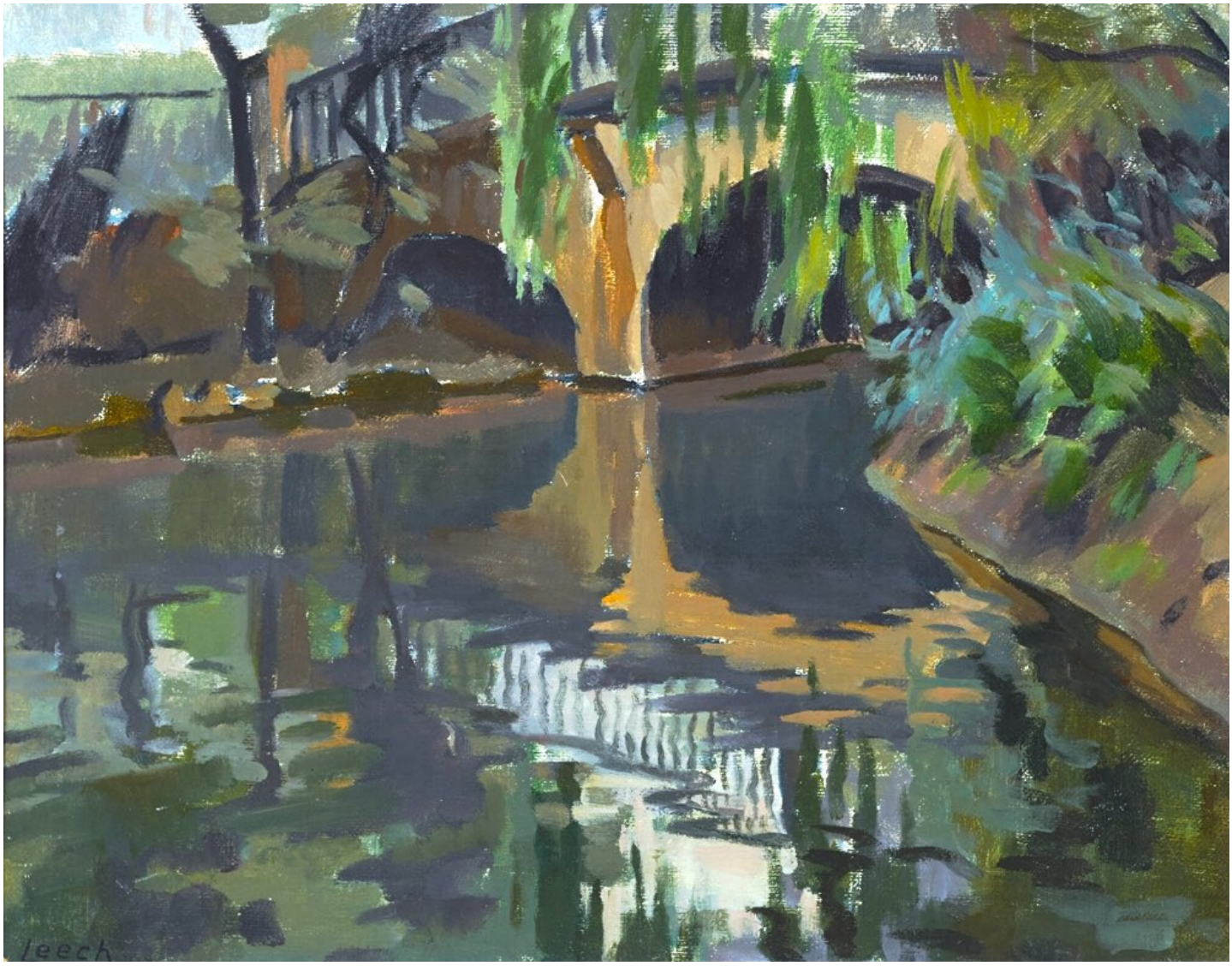
Haystack (c1945), The China Horse (c1945), The Terrace (c1940) & Refugee (c1947)



The ‘50s saw a turn towards domestic scenes. Tea Trolley (c1950s), Self-Portrait (1958), Window Sill (1950s) & Painting in the Garden(1950s)



As the years passed, his work remained the same. He was content to continue with a style first evinced in the 1920s. Grey Bridge, Regents Park, London (1950s), The Lake, Regents Park, London (1950s) & The Tea Tray (c1950-60s)



He died in 1968. Chloe Abbott (1965). Leech was an excellent painter, he may not have been ground breaking or evolutionary but his work is attractive & pleasant.



For Republic of Ireland residents today is the last day to place an order for Christmas. Please do so ASAP! https://t.co/MJv53c86AZ

> Please Retweet
>
> Last day for Irish Republic Christmas Delivery
>
> My ink drawings are about joy, hope, love & empathy. When you buy one you can choose a second free.
>
> The post office will deliver before Christmas if ordered by Monday 21st. pic.twitter.com/FqH8maNGf2
>
> — Dr Robert Bohan Artist (@RobertBohan) December 20, 2020