

John Charles Wood Heath was trained in Birmingham and at the Royal College of Art in London. He was an accomplished draughtsman and had an Associateship in Engraving. He had trained at a time when Post-War British modernism was at its height. He was contemporary with people like John Piper, Graham Sutherland, Henry Moore and Paul Nash. His teaching principles included disciplines like academic still-life, drawing from life and Art History with an emphasis on the traditional constructs of Renaissance composition. Heath was also an ex-military man who had taken part in the Normandy landings. He was a prize-winning Javelin athlete with a large personality who was not afraid of mincing his words. Page identified with him immediately. Page became a diligent and committed student enjoying the cut and thrust of studio practice under the sharp wit and cuttngly incisive eye of the master. Heath, recognizing the latent oddness and idiosyncratic nature of Page's imagination, set about teaching him the fundamentals of drawing and composition as a way of liberating his mature student's inner life. He was astute enough not to meddle with Page's subject matter or stilted drawing style but allowed the man's strange imagination to emerge at its own pace. As far as Page was concerned, discipline and application were probably the two most important attributes of Heath's training.