

John Minton (1917-57)

Painter and Illustrator

Francis John Minton was a boarder at the School from 1932 to 1935 where he was a fine actor and prolific contributor to the School Magazine.

After World War Two, in which he served as a Commissioned Officer, he rose to considerable prominence as a painter in the School of "*English Romanticism*". His exhibitions attracted much attention, and natural abilities as a lecturer and teacher made him a celebrated tutor at the Royal College of Art.

He was active in painting, lithography, writing, advertising drawing, theatrical and film posters and set design, but it is perhaps in book illustration that his work reached its widest public.

He was hugely productive showing great skill in his use of colour and mastery of composition. As his output slowed he also began to feel himself increasingly out of touch with international fashion. He took his own life in 1957, at the age of 39. His death was reported as "*a tragic loss to English draughtsmanship and painting*".

