

### Sir Gerald Festus Kelly, P.R.A.



A shop selling metalware, Cairo

Reference: 11213

Dimensions:

Height: 22 cm / 8<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in

Width: 27 cm / 10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in

Oil on panel

22 x 27 cm.; 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches

Provenance

The artist's widow, Lady Kelly; Michael Parkin Fine Art Ltd; From whom purchased by J.G. Cluff, private collection U.K. until 2022

# KAREN TAYLOR

## FINE ART

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Born in London of Irish descent, Kelly was educated at Cambridge University, later living and studying art in Paris where he met Degas, Monet, Renoir and Sickert. Whistler was also an early influence as were Cézanne and Gauguin.

Kelly was an enthusiastic traveller, visiting many countries from Egypt to China. His sketches of his travels are pleasingly spontaneous and tend to be painted more freely than his finished portraits.

He became a successful society portraitist whose sitters included Somerset Maugham, whom he painted several times, and he undertook numerous state portraits. Kelly is represented in many public collections, including the Tate, which holds seven works. He had retrospective exhibitions at the Leicester Galleries in 1950 and in 1957 at the RA. He was elected RA in 1930, was the Academy's Keeper from 1943-45 and President, defeating Augustus John in the election, from 1949-54. Kelly held a number of official positions, such as membership of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, 1938-43, and was knighted in 1945. Between 1909 and 1970 Kelly exhibited over 300 works at the RA. During his lifetime his work became well known through popular prints.