

# Basic Detail Report

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## Lakeside Cottages

**Date**

c. 1929

**Primary Maker**

Paul Henry

**Medium**

Oil on canvas

**Dimensions**

Framed: 64 x 84 x 5 cm 41.5 x 61 cm

**Description**

With the financial support of a relative, Paul Henry, aged in his early twenties, travelled to Paris where he studied at the Académie Julian. He also briefly attended the Académie Carmen, the school run by the American artist James McNeil Whistler (1834-1903), a master of delicate tonal harmonies. As an aspiring artist, Henry admired the work of Jean François Millet (1814 - 1875) and Vincent Van Gogh (1853 - 1890) both of whom were sympathetic painters of peasant life. Henry's twelve years working as an illustrator in London is reflected in the graphic solidity and clarity of his painted work. In 1912 he moved to Achill, Co. Mayo with his wife, the artist Grace Henry (1868 - 1953), and remained there for seven years painting the everyday lives of local people at their work. Set amidst the dramatic landscape and billowing, cloud-filled skies characteristic of the Atlantic seaboard, Lakeside Cottages dates from a time when Henry's work had reached its maturity. Thematically, it is one of many works featuring cottages by a lake and the deceptive simplicity of its composition, with its subtle repetition of geometric forms, belies the accomplished skill with which it was painted.