



The Travelling Circus

Date

1906

Primary Maker

Jack B Yeats

Medium

Watercolour on paper

Dimensions

27 × 35.8 cm

Description

Excerpt from catalogue accompanying Oskar Kokoschka and Jack B. Yeats exhibition at Compton Verney late 2008. A Travelling Circus 1906 Watercolour on paper Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane. Yeats probably amalgamated several separate observations together to form this image of a travelling circus. A large stream of townsfolk leads the viewers eye towards the circus tent in the composition. Close to the entrance is a caravan, the side of which advertises the kinds of unusual animals and reptiles that are to be seen. In the centre of the composition, close to the crowd stands the circus ringmaster, wearing a red jacket and a black top hat. At the back of the tent a small group of townsfolk have an impromptu meeting with some of the performers. Capturing the scene at dusk gives added theatricality as the light inside the tent contrasts with the fading day outside.