

Bruce Sargeant

(1898 – 1938)

Time Line:

- 1898 Born in Sheffield, England
- 1916 He writes poems. First trip down coal mine of family. First sexual encounters. Father tries to interest him in business. Goes to American West.
- 1916 Reports to induction office in New York. Finds one leg shorter than the other. Returns to Cornwall. Works in ambulance training corps. Sees no military action but results of war. Before leaving New York sees paintings of John Sloan, George Luks, and other Ashcan painters.
- 1918 Returns to Sheffield. Lives with Mark Beard's grandmother (his half-sister) and grandfather. One year at Sheffield University.
- 1920 At 22, goes to London. Lives with school friend in Kensington. Is evening student at Slade with Ecole des Beaux-Arts-educated teacher Hippolyte-Alexandre Michallon. Is befriended by Edith Thayer Cromwell and begins his complicated relationship with colleague and sometimes enemy Brechtholdt Streeruwitz. Pursues athletic endeavors. Writes poems.
- 1922 After being a fully matriculated student at Slade, continues studying, receiving first commissions. Moves to Bloomsbury. Continues writing. We don't know which of the Bloomsbury literary group he knew. Back up to Sheffield. Paints locally.
- 1924 In Sheffield, a boy's father tells Bruce Sargeant's father about affair. Bruce is sent to Canada, where in Winnipeg he is active in sports, tries business, wishes he were home, paints still lifes. Receives letters from boy he had affair with.
- 1926 Father dies. Returns to Rotherham and to affair with boy, but realizes it is over due to differences in class and education. Creates studio in back garden of family house. Paints.
- 1928 Paints *Winner of the All-Around Swim, Track, and Field Competition, Rupert Smith-Farnsworth with his brothers Cecil and Guy*. Family business is sold at the time. Bruce Sargeant is on fixed allowance from proceeds. Shows at Atwoods and Atwoods in London and locally at Wentworth Wood House.
- 1929 Goes to Paris. Has bad affair with married French lawyer. For six months continues painting. Attends life sessions at the Académie Julian and the Grande Chaumière.
- 1930 Goes to New York. End of French affair. Pursues Ashcan painters. Takes small cottage in Berkshires. Allowance dwindles due to stock market crash, which forces him into permanent provincial life.
- 1932 Shows in Birmingham and Manchester.
- 1934 Tour of Amalfi coast, where he paints *Guido in Positano*. Shows in Leeds.
- 1936 Trip to Germany. Resides in Cologne for a time. Visits Berlin Olympics. Affair with Nazi youth (Hans Kramer).
- 1938 Privately publishes *Fifteen Corporeal Poems* with etchings in an edition of twenty-five copies for friends. Dies in wrestling accident in Sheffield. Is buried in the churchyard of Chapel-on-the-Bridge in Rotherham.

