

The Blind Beggar

Walter William Oules



1890's
Oil on Board
75 x 62cm

Next in line is 'The Blind Beggar' painted by Walter William Oules (1848-1933) in oil on canvas. Oules was born in St. Helier and was the son of the widely celebrated marine artist P.J Oules who was of French decent.

Oules' earliest works were in the story-telling manner but his reputation was made with his portraits of many leading members of Victorian society and a collection of his well-known portraits can be found in the National Portrait Gallery in London and include people such as the Prince of Wales (1900) and Charles Darwin.

In this dramatic scene the old man is being led by the hand by a young woman wearing a peasant dress of the times through a medieval townscape. Note how her basket is empty as she stares out of the picture directly at the viewer and how the softness of the brush marks on her face differ from the bolder strokes that cover the rest of the canvas which indicates the artist's affection for his subject matter.