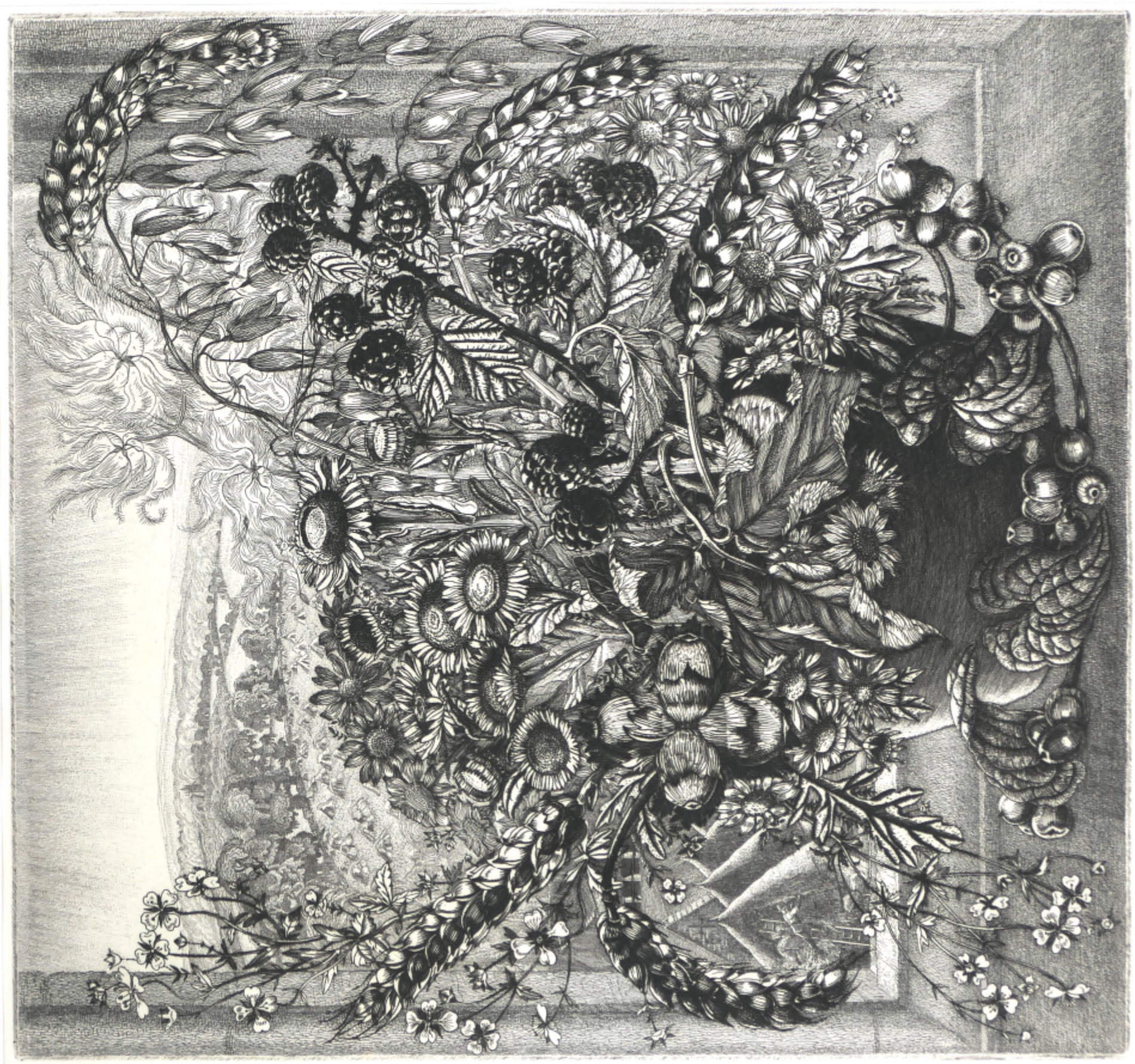
Autumn

Robin Tanner R.E

£390



REF: 1249

Height: 34 cm (13.4")

Width: 31.5 cm (12.4")

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Framed Height: 55 cm (21.7")

Framed Width: 55 cm (21.7")

Description

‘Autumn’ was the largest and one of the best-known of Robin Tanner’s etchings, finished in in 1933 and exhibited at the Royal Academy that year, but with the exception of some early proofs not issued in an edition until 1974. This is number 38 from that edition of fifty, signed in pencil and numbered in the lower left corner by the artist. A further edition of 12 copies was published by Garton and Cooke in 1984 and Robin Garton published a further posthumous edition of 112 prints in 1988. The present etching was printed on F.J. Head & Co watermarked HP wove paper, and is its full original size of 49.5 by 42.5 cms. The idea of ‘Autumn’ resulted from country walks with Heather in the first autumn of their marriage, and was made after their move to Old Chaple Field, Kington Langley in the Wiltshire countryside in 1932. Tanner said of the print, “I was obsessed by all this wild autumnal richness, and craved to celebrate it on a sheet of copper: it was line, not mass and colour, I felt, that could best express these forms and textures. I would gather them all together in one pot in one of our windows: and beyond I would have the old Kington Langley thatcher, Jim Bezant, at work; and away under a mellow sun I would have a great field of wheat still in stook, and rows of heavy elms, and a church tower rising among woods, and, yet more woods fading into the downland distance. It would not be ‘true to life’, as they say, but it would be true to the life I dreamed of. The autumn sun shone, with never a cloud, upon wheat that was never blighted and leaves and berries without blemish."

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