

Adolphe Valette

A French Painter in Manchester

Manchester was the adopted city of Adolphe Valette, a French artist born in St. Etienne near Lyon, who came to England on a travelling scholarship in 1904.

A year later he arrived in Manchester and continued his studies at the School of Art, while supporting himself by commercial art work. He was soon invited to join the staff and taught at the School of Art from 1906 to 1920 influencing many artists, including L S Lowry. He returned to France in 1928.

Valette worked in a variety of media and styles but a series of impressionistic views of Manchester, painted between 1908 and 1913, represent the summit of his artistic career. Most of these were acquired by Manchester Art Gallery which now has by far the largest holding of his work.

This display presents the artist's work in four contexts: the Manchester School of Art, Impressionism, British influences on Valette's art and his legacy.