

BRIAN SHIELDS (BRAAQ) - "THE BANDSTAND" - REF 2301



Set on a sunny, summer Sunday afternoon, in a park adjacent to a fairly large northern town. *The Bandstand* has all the character and hallmarks one of the very best works by Liverpool artist – Brian Shields.

Brian Shields was born in Liverpool in 1951, His father Dennis Shields was a highly regarded artist but on account of having twelve children was unable to support his family through painting alone. Brian's eldest brother pursued a successful career in America as a sculptor. The name 'Ann' after Brian's own signature was a tribute to his sister who died at the young age of 21 and to whose memory all of his subsequent paintings were dedicated.

The unusual name of 'Braaq' is a misspelling of the famous French artist Braque which, on account of his artistic talent as a boy, was his nickname at school. Brian held his first exhibition in 1974. In 1977 he was invited to hold his first of four exhibitions in London's West End. It was after this exhibition that 'The Times' described him as "one of the six most successful artists in England". All Brian's paintings are based, in a humorous way, on his childhood memories of Liverpool. He frequently painted himself as a boy wearing a striped jumper. In 1997 at the age of 46 Brian died, leaving a contribution to the art world which ranks him among the leading artists in the country.

PRICE: £32,900

Provenance: Private collection North Yorkshire

Artist & Painting: **Brian Shields (aka BRAAQ)**, British (1951-1997) – *"The Bandstand"* – oil on board, circa 1990. Signed "Braaq" Ann, lower right.

Dimensions of Image: 24" wide, 18" high; 61cm wide, 46cm high.

Restorations: The painting has been very lightly cleaned and re framed in a modern British style frame.

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