

Louis Wain

by Mathew Weir



Louis Wain's paintings can be humorous, cats playing golf or sipping tea, playfully taking on the human characteristics which he projected on to them. Other cats are immersed in detail and pattern; swirls of colour and violent, sharp, jagged shapes. As Louis Wain began to show signs of mental disorder, suspicion and occasional violence, did this same abuse start to be inflicted on the pleasant scenes of cats picnicking? Is this mental illness made visual? Schizophrenia held static and given solidity;

assisting some kind of understanding, an
explanation for something that seems so abstract,
distant and fearful.

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artist