

John Addyman (1929-2006) was an outstandingly sensitive landscape artist. The exhibition of 23 prints and watercolours at **Monnow Valley Arts Centre** is a concise summary of a career that spanned six decades. Addyman danced between figuration and abstraction with the ease of the truly gifted. He created patterns in fields, rocks and seascapes that spin the brain like mathematical formulae, and he infused his images with light that is as delicate and precise as the shine on a dragonfly's wings. His impish humour (expressed in devastatingly witty cartoons, not shown here) defies pompous attempts to categorise him. So why isn't he better known? There is something almost too pale and cerebral about his pictures: they take time and work to appreciate, for their wit to land and make itself felt. To put it another way, they are not meaty enough, only salad. Not enough ketchup with the potatoes. (This is longer than the version that appeared in Galleries.) .