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**Harry Davis: Watercolour Study of a European Perch**

**£340**

A watercolour study of a European Perch by Royal Worcester ceramic artist Harry Davis, signed 'H.Davis.'
Watercolour over traces of pencil, presented mounted and framed

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**SKU:** C5024
**Height:** 16 cm (6.5 inches) excluding frame
**Width:** 22 cm (8.75 inches) excluding frame

**Provenance:**

With Heather Newman, Gloucestershire

**Harry Davis (British, 1885-1970)**

Harry Davis was born in Worcester in 1885. His father, Alfred, was a china figure maker who worked for Royal Worcester and his grandfather Josiah Davis was one of the most talented gilders ever to work at the factory. Harry started out at St Peter's School, at the age of 13, started working for Royal Worcester. Along with all the young boys he began doing very menial tasks and was formally apprenticed for seven years under the talented landscape artist, Ted Salter, on 3 November 1899.

Ted Salter had reinforced Harry's love of the countryside and of fishing. A keen fisherman, Harry was a follower of Isaac Walton, 17th century author of the most successful angling book of all time, 'The Compleat Angler'. He perfected the difficult art of painting fish with amazing accuracy, possible only to someone with a deep understanding of fish and their behaviour. Harry was an active member of the Royal Worcester Fishing Club and later in life painted two wonderful trophies for the club to present to competition winners each year.

Harry quickly proved that he had tremendous natural ability and striking individuality. He was always versatile and painted a large range of subjects with ease. Landscapes with sheep, cattle, pigs, fish, snow scenes, London Scenes, polar bears, palaces and gardens, but he was never a 'Jack of all trades' he would accept nothing less than perfection in everything he did.

Finally retiring with failing health in 1969, aged 83 Harry Davis always stated that during his whole time at the factory he had been extremely happy. Harry died in 1970. He was always astonished that anyone should want to collect his work, but Harry's signature guaranteed the very best quality and today Harry's name on any piece of porcelain guarantees a high price.