TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk

The Studio Ltd.

A Family Affair

Ruth Artmonsky

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- *The Studio: An Illustrated Magazine of Fine and Applied Art* was an illustrated fine arts and decorative arts magazine published in London from 1893 until 1964, that promoted the works of 'New Art' artists and architects. This book is the story of its influential publisher, The Studio Ltd.

In the late decades of the 19th century a textile manufacturer sent his teenage son to Leeds to develop the business. Little did Mr. Holme senior know what that move would lead to. The young man, Charles Holme, happened to attend a lecture given by a business man just returned from the Far East. In very little time the inspired youth was travelling across Far Eastern countries developing his own business. On his travels he came to the conclusion that countries didn't get along together because of the barrier of language. He thought that if they could be exposed to each others cultures visually all would be peace and light. It was that notion that led Charles Holme on his retirement from trading, without any relevant training or experience, to become a publisher, his business entitled The Studio Ltd., its first publication, *The Studio*. For over 50 years, involving three generations, The Studio Ltd. grew to be Britain's biggest publisher of magazines and books on art and design in the first half of the 20th century. Its story is told here.

Ruth Artmonsky trained as a psychologist. On her retirement from her associate directorship of a leading psychometric consultancy she ran a small art gallery. She has written and published a number of books on British mid-20th century art.

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