



19th & 20th Century Paintings, Works on Paper and Sculpture (29 June 2022 B)

Wed, 29th Jun 2022

Viewing:

Viewing exclusively at Chiswick Auctions Barley Mow, 10 Barley Mow Passage, W4 4PH:

Fri 24 June 11am to 4pm

Sat 25 June 11am to 4pm

Mon 27 June 11am to 4pm

Tues 28 June 11am to 4pm

Lot 44

Estimate: £800 - £1200 + Fees

WILLIAM SAMUEL HORTON (AMERICAN 1865-1936)

Property from the Estate of the Artist

WILLIAM SAMUEL HORTON (AMERICAN 1865-1936)

Sunset

pastel

48 x 62.9 cm (18 7/8 x 24 3/4 in)

William Samuel Horton is considered by critics to be one of the leading members of American Impressionism, best-known for his Monetesque sunsets and sunrises, Swiss Alpine landscapes, New York skylines and Norwegian fjord scenes.

Horton parted with few of his works during his lifetime, and we are proud to offer 16 vivid and scintillant pastels from the estate of the artist in our 29th June auction. Exemplifying the artist's unique abilities as a colourist, these extraordinary works on paper demonstrate the artist's mastery of pastel.

W.S. Horton grew up in a wealthy family and left home in 1883 to study at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students League of New York. In 1892, Horton married the New York debutante Carlotta Lorrie Gray and in 1893 they moved to Holland, later settling in Paris where Horton joined the Académie Julian art school. It was Paris that perhaps had the greatest influence on the artist's stylistic development, as whilst studying in the French capital he befriended and worked closely alongside some of the leading Impressionist artists including Whistler, Pissarro, Degas and Monet.

In 1918 Horton moved to England, continuing to travel often to Europe, painting and sketching scenes in Switzerland, France and Italy. During his travels the artist developed his own Impressionist style, and like Monet focussed on the effects of light on colour, atmosphere, form, shadow and shapes. Like the founding Impressionist, Horton painted the same motif or scene at different times of the day, studying the effect of the light. Examples include his 1934 dramatic sunsets and sunrises over the coastal fjords, planes and mountains of Norway, his recognisable cityscapes of the New York skyline, most notably of the Ritz and Heckscher towers (1924-1930) and his snowy landscapes of the Swiss Alps. In 1935 the artist travelled to Asia (China, Singapore, India and Indonesia), continuing to paint and sketch, including on board ships.

W.S. Horton and his wife were relatively wealthy during their lifetime, selling few of his artworks. When Horton died in 1936 he left over 1000 oils, pastels and drawings to their son William Gray, who organised a retrospective exhibition of his father's work at the Galerie Charpentier, Paris in 1939, which included an appreciation text by the famous art critic Louis Vauxcelles.

Horton's works can be found in the permanent collections of the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris and the National Museum, Stockholm.