

Sale Name: Fine Art Auction Featuring Canadian & Inuit Artworks

LOT 23 - George Agnew Reid - Atlantic Reflection



Artist Description George Agnew Reid (1860 – 1947 CAD) P.R.C.A., O.C.A. Born on his family's farm in Wingham, Canada West. After briefly apprenticing with an architect, he was trained at the Ontario School of Art, Toronto in 1879, where he studied with Robert Harris. Afterwards, he studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1882 to 1885 where he was a protégé of Thomas Eakins who appointed him a demonstrator in anatomy classes. He met his first wife artist Mary Hiester Reid at the Pennsylvania Academy, married her in 1885 and remained with her until her death in 1921. He also studied at the Académie Julian, with Jean-Joseph Benjamin-Constant, and at the Académie Colarossi in Paris, and the Prado in Madrid (1888–1889). He and his wife also made a number of study trips to Europe later, during which they visited France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. In Toronto, Reid used memories of his early days on the farm and his knowledge of life in Canada in *Forbidden Fruit* (1889). He made his name with narrative pictures to which he applied his training in Paris which included works such as *The Foreclosure of the Mortgage* (1893; destroyed in 1919). After a 1896 trip to Spain and France, he painted or used pastel to create scenes of Canadian nature or of the figure in nature, espousing a modified form of Impressionism, having studied it in Paris. Reid became interested in mural painting in Paris, created his first mural panel in 1892, and in 1896, on his trip abroad, studied the murals of Puvis de Chavannes. In 1897, with Frederick Challener, William Cruikshank and Edmund Wylie Grier, he founded the Society of Mural Decorators in Toronto. In 1903, with the help of others, he founded the Arts and Crafts Society of Canada. It became the Canadian Society of Applied Art in 1905, and combined with a "City Beautiful" movement to encourage murals in civic and commercial establishments. Reid created murals and private and public commissions notably for the Toronto City Hall (1897-1899), Toronto Municipal Buildings (c. 1899), the Royal Ontario Museum (1935-1938) and for Jarvis

Collegiate in Toronto (1926-1929). He was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1889, was President of the Ontario Society of Artists in 1897, President of the Royal Canadian Academy from 1906 to 1909, one of the founders of the Associated Watercolour Painters in 1912, and having taught at the Central Ontario School of Art since 1890, became the first principal of its successor, the Ontario College of Art from 1912 to 1929. He was commissioned by the Canadian War Records department to create works in 1917 and 1918. His awards included a 1893 gold medal for Foreclosure of the Mortgage at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (a second gold medal was awarded the picture in San Francisco at the Midwinter Fair in 1894), and a bronze medal at the Canadian exhibition at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. In 1922, after the death of his first wife Mary Hiester Reid, he married fellow artist Mary E. Wrinch. With her, he explored and painted the Canadian north in 1925 and the years that followed. He died in 1947, leaving behind a large and varied body of work, with much of it being found in public collections, such as the National Gallery of Canada. He donated 400 of his own works to the province for distribution to schools to inspire students. 175 of his works remain in the Government of Ontario art collection today.

Description

Pastel On Canvas

Signed Lower Left - Titled au verso

Sight - 21 ins x 27.5 ins (53.34 cm x 69.85 cm)

Framed Under Glass

Provenance:

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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