



HAWTHORNE  
Fine Art

**WALTER DOUGLAS** (1868-1948)

*The Garden*

Oil on panel

16 x 20 inches

Signed lower center

Walter Douglas, the Cincinnati-born landscape and still-life painter, lived and worked largely in New York City. Like many of his contemporaries, Douglas studied at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League. He was quick to achieve success in the early twentieth century art world, as is evidenced by his regular exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Boston Art Club, and the Society of Independent Artists.

Though Douglas painted both landscapes and still lifes, he became best known among collectors and his contemporaries as a painter of birds—specifically, of barnyard fowl. Of a painting exhibited at the annual state fair in Dallas, one art critic wrote, “Walter Douglas has painted a group of 'Mr. Foster's Fowls,' feeding under a farm wagon as to deceive the fowls themselves. The chickens are represented with all the detail that bright coloring can give.”<sup>1</sup>

*The Garden*, similar in feeling to Douglas's paintings of domesticated birds, is a sentimental scene of daily life beyond the boundaries of New York City. Reminiscent of the sun-dappled garden scenes of Charles Courtney Curran (1861-1942) and Abbott Fuller Graves (1859-1936), Douglas's technique is impressionistic in execution, with special attention given to the effects of sunlight accentuating the sleeve of the girl's dress and the flowers beneath her feet. Through sensitive handling of paint and color, Douglas presents this central figure—with her lowered head and delicate gesture—as a quintessential picture of childhood innocence and reverence for the small wonders of the natural world.

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<sup>1</sup> “Pictures Shown at Fair Admired by Art Lovers.” *Dallas Morning News*. October 18, 1910.