



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Mrs. Martha J. Shaw**

Martha J. Shaw was active in New York City as an artist and teacher in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to archival City Directories, Shaw resided at 1271 Broadway and held a studio at 1155 Broadway between 1883 and 1889.<sup>1</sup> She specialized in portrait plaques and offered instruction in oils and watercolor from her Broadway studio according to advertisements placed by the artist in *The Art Amateur*<sup>2</sup> in 1883 and *The Art Interchange* in 1884<sup>3</sup>.

In 1898, Shaw exhibited miniatures, figures, and “ideal heads in connection with lustre decorations” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the New York Society of Ceramic Artists held at the Waldorf-Astoria. A critic for *The Art Amateur* said, “Mrs. Shaw’s portrait of Dr. Collyer attracted much attention, and also her portraits of children. Her work shows a thorough knowledge of drawing and modeling.”<sup>4</sup> A review published in the *Jewelers’ Circular* mentioned Shaw’s “beautiful miniature work.”<sup>5</sup> Shaw was included the following year among the figure painters at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the New York Society of Ceramic Arts. She exhibited, “an ideal head, which is the decoration of a bon-bonniere cover. The original work is surrounded by paste and gold, and the base of the box is green lustre.”<sup>6</sup> In 1900, the artist exhibited figures on a plaque entitled *The Bridal* at the annual exhibition of the Society of Ceramic Arts.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. City Directories, 1883-1889 for Martha J. Shaw accessed via ancestry.com

<sup>2</sup> *The Art Amateur*, Volume 10, December 1883, (New York: Montague Marks, 1883) 100.

<sup>3</sup> *The Art Interchange*, Volume XII, No. 11, May 22, 1884, (New York: William Whitlock, 1884) 132.

<sup>4</sup> “Art News and Notes,” *The Art Amateur*, Vol. 40-No. 2., (New York: Montague Marks, 1899) 49.

<sup>5</sup> *The Jewelers’ Circular*, Volume XXXVII (Jewelers’ Circular Publishing Company, 1898) 42.

<sup>6</sup> *The Art Amateur*, Vol 42 – No. 1, (New York: Montague Marks, 1899) 18.