



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### Georgiana Howland (1862-1929)

Georgiana Howland was born in Astoria, New York to a prominent American family. She was a descendant of John Howland, a Puritan who traveled from England on the Mayflower. Her parents were Mary Woolsey and Robert Shaw Howland.<sup>1</sup> Her father was a clergyman who served as an assistant minister at St. Luke's Church and later as rector of the Church of the Holy Apostles.<sup>2</sup> Following the Civil War, Rev. Howland led the first services of the Church of the Heavenly Rest at the Rutgers Female Institute on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.<sup>3</sup>

Howland studied under the tutelage of William Merritt Chase at the New York School of Art and at the Shinnecock Hills School of Art located in Southampton, Long Island.<sup>4</sup> In 1894, Howland's painting entitled *A Flowery Path* was included as an illustration for a biographical sketch of Chase published in *The Quarterly Illustrator*.<sup>5</sup>

Howland shared a country home in Shinnecock Hills with her sister Abby R. Howland. The house was designed by Kate Budd, a fellow student of the Shinnecock School.<sup>6</sup> The Howland sisters were part of Chase's close-knit group of neighbors. According to an article in *The Spur* published in 1923, after his love for his wife and children, "[Chase] loved his Suffolk County neighbors, among whom were Dr. Edward Keyes, his wife and daughter, then living in a rose-embowered cottage at Water Mill, the John Berwinds, farther east at Bridgehampton; the Misses Abby and Georgiana Howland and the William Hoyts."<sup>7</sup>

In 1901, Howland exhibited a painting entitled *Shinnecock Hills Road* between works by Charles Morris Young and Childe Hassam at the 70<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. The exhibit included the work of Howland's teacher, William Merritt Chase, and many other notable artists including Edmund C. Tarbell, Cecilia Beaux, and Winslow Homer.<sup>8</sup> In

---

<sup>1</sup> "Miss Howland Dead," *Brooklyn Times Union* (Brooklyn, New York) Sat, Oct 5, 1929, 48.

<sup>2</sup> "Necrology," *The Churchman*, Volume 55 (Hartford, CT: Churchman Company) February 12, 1887, 180.

<sup>3</sup> "Our History," Church of the Heavenly Rest NYC, accessed Oct. 26, 2021, <https://www.heavenlyrest.org/our-history-long-view>.

<sup>4</sup> Ronald G. Pisano, *The Students of William Merritt Chase* (Huntington, New York: Hecksher Museum, 1973) 18.

<sup>5</sup> William J. Baer "Reformer and Iconoclast," *The Quarterly Illustrator* Vol. II, No. 6, (New York: Harry C. Jones, 1894) 139.

<sup>6</sup> Ronald G. Pisano, *The Students of William Merritt Chase*.

<sup>7</sup> "Five O'Clock Tidings," *The Spur*, Volume 32, No. 7, (New York: The Angus Company) October 1, 1923, 42.

<sup>8</sup> *Catalogue of the Seventieth Annual Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts*, (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Academy, 1901) 32.



## HAWTHORNE Fine Art

1907, a critic for the *New York Times* noted Howland's, "...excellent views on Shinnecock Hills..." during an exhibition of sketches by artist members of the National Arts Club.<sup>9</sup> In 1909, Howland spent the summer in Shinnecock, Long Island. She returned to New York City where she spent the winter working in her studio.<sup>10</sup>

In August 1922, Howland and artist Zella de Milhau organized an exhibition honoring the life of their teacher, William Merritt Chase. The exhibit held at Southampton's Memorial Hall was comprised of the work of former students of the Shinnecock Hills Summer School including Howland, Lydia Field Emmet, Edwina Post and others.<sup>11</sup> Chase's widow also loaned works by her husband to the exhibit.<sup>12</sup> The following month, Howland had a joint exhibition of paintings and sketches with Mrs. Theron R. Strong at Parrish Memorial Hall.<sup>13</sup> In 1929, Howland exhibited her work along with artists Zella de Milhau and Maria Wetherill at the studio of Rachel Hartley in Southampton.<sup>14</sup>

Howland was a founder, along with Helen Sargent and Constance Curtis, of the Art Workers' Club for Women.<sup>15</sup> Incorporated in 1901, the club provided professional opportunities to women artists and models. In 1904, Howland served as the club's vice president and was on the board of directors. The club's advisory board included W.M. Chase, John La Farge and H. Siddons Mowbray among others. In 1920, Howland was in charge of the booths along with Lydia Field Emmet, Cecelia Beaux and others during the annual benefit for the Art Worker's Club for Women.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> "Member's Show at the Arts," *The New York Times* (New York, New York), Fri, Oct 18, 1907, 11.

<sup>10</sup> "Among the Artists," *American Art News*, Vol. VIII, No. 3, (New York, NY) October 30, 1909, 3.

<sup>11</sup> "Change in Temperament of American Fashionable Life," *New York Herald* (New York, New York), Sun, Sep 17, 1922, 35.

<sup>12</sup> "Southampton to Honor W.M. Chase with Art Exhibit," *New York Herald* (New York, New York) Wed, Aug 16, 1922, 7.

<sup>13</sup> "Change in Temperament of American Fashionable Life," *New York Herald*.

<sup>14</sup> "Society," *Brooklyn Times Union* (Brooklyn, New York), Sun, Jul 28, 1929, 28.

<sup>15</sup> "Georgiana Howland," Biography from the Archives of askArt, accessed Oct. 26, 2021, [https://www.askart.com/artist/Georgiana\\_Howland/109704/Georgiana\\_Howland.aspx](https://www.askart.com/artist/Georgiana_Howland/109704/Georgiana_Howland.aspx).

<sup>16</sup> "Art Workers' Fair to Open To-Morrow," *New York Herald* (New York, New York) · Tue, Dec 7, 1920, 11.



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

Georgiana Howland died in her country home in Shinnecock, Long Island in 1929. Her funeral was held in New York City at the Church of the Heavenly Rest, where her father had served as rector nearly sixty years before.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> “Miss Howland Dead,” *Brooklyn Times Union* (Brooklyn, New York) Sat, Oct 5, 1929, 48.