



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

SUZANNE C. PORTER (c.1839 – 1887)

Lake Placid, Adirondacks, c.1879

Oil on board

6 7/8 x 10 3/4 inches

Signed lower right

The artist Suzanne C. Porter was born Suzanne Roberts in Hartford, Connecticut around 1839. When her husband, S. C. Porter, died just a few years after her marriage, she devoted her life to painting and developed an international reputation among her fellow artists.

Porter began her early artistic training in Hartford, studying drawing and painting under the landscape artist George E. Gladwin (1829-1920) and the portraitist Seth Wells Cheney (1810-1856). In 1859, Porter moved to New York City to complete her formal art education at the newly established Cooper Institute (now the Cooper Union), graduating in 1862. The following year, she moved back to Hartford, where she studied under William B. Wheeler (1832-1894).

By 1873, Porter moved to Paris to study under Ange Tissier (1814-1876), who was known for training women artists. In 1875, while still living in Paris on the *Boulevard des Batignolles*, Porter exhibited her painting entitled *Un Enfant* at the Paris Salon. The following year, she relocated to Philadelphia and exhibited works at the Centennial Exposition. While her primary residence remained in the United States, Porter continued to make frequent trips to Europe until around 1886, when she made her final journey. Upon her return, Porter's health began to fail and she moved to Hartford, where the artist lived with her sister, Florence, until her death in 1887.

This lake scene with boaters likely depicts the Adirondack region around Lake Placid, and probably dates to 1879, when Porter traveled to the area with her sister. Painted in the Luminist Hudson River School style, the artist masterfully captures the effects of the colorful sunset on the landscape and its reflection on the serene surface of the water. The sense of tranquility is emphasized through the use of aerial perspective, where the distant mountains, painted in cool blue tones, rise toward the soft, hazy orange sky. The rocks and shrubbery in the foreground, rendered in impeccable detail, add a sense of spatial depth to the scene. The artwork retains its original nineteenth-century fluted frame, and is an excellent rare example of a landscape by Porter, who was most well-known for her portraits.