



## HAWTHORNE Fine Art

**AGNES BROWN (1847-1932)**

Landscape with White Birch

Oil on board

13 5/8 x 10 1/4 inches

Signed verso

***Provenance:***

A New Jersey Collection

Agnes Brown and her husband, the landscape painter John Appleton Brown (1844-1902), made a formidable artistic pair. The two traveled and painted together constantly, beginning in 1874 with an extended trip to France where they were exposed to the Barbizon painting of Camille Corot (1796-1875) and his contemporaries. The couple returned to the United States the following year, where they settled in Boston. In the company of such American Barbizon painters as William Morris Hunt and Joseph Foxcroft Cole, the Browns honed their pastoral renderings of the New England landscape.

As the wife of a well-respected painter, Agnes Brown benefited from her husband's reputation, encouragement, and lifestyle. However these same privileges tend to obfuscate Agnes Brown's independent legacy in the historical record as a painter in her own right. While Agnes Brown is rarely considered outside of the context of her husband, however, her paintings retain significant authority on their own. Landscape with White Birch, for example, carries weight as a stand-alone vignette. In Brown's choice of an arched frame and use of expressive brush strokes to render surprising detail, this pastoral summer scene of a New England landscape ranks among those of her husband and other predominantly male members of the American Barbizon school.