



## HAWTHORNE

### Fine Art

#### **SARAH COLE (1805-1857)**

*Ancient Column Near Syracuse*, c. 1848

Oil on canvas

11 7/8 x 11 7/8 inches

Inscribed verso, "A Column Standing near Syracuse, Sicily copied from a picture by T. Cole by S. Cole"

Sarah Cole, known predominantly as the sister to the notable Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole (1801-1848), was—despite the shadow overcast by her more famous brother—an accomplished painter in her own right. Like her brother, Sarah made summer painting and sketching trips into the Catskills and, in 1838, accompanied her brother on a hiking and camping trip to Catskill High Peak. From such expeditions as these, Sarah produced both original and copied works. *Ancient Column Near Syracuse* is one that she likely copied after her brother's *Column of Ancient Syracuse*, which was displayed at the Thomas's 1848 memorial exhibition.

Despite her older brother's notoriety, Sarah was able to make a name for herself in her own time. Her patrons hailed from New York and Pennsylvania, and she exhibited at the National Academy of Design, the Maryland Historical Society, and the American Art-Union. With the support of her brother, Sarah Cole is a prime example of the industrious woman artist in the nineteenth century. *Ancient Column Near Syracuse* is a bucolic and a telling example of Sarah's talent as a painter. In the foreground, the column and flute-playing figure stand out as allegorical symbols that recall old master paintings and the architecture of ancient Rome. In the middle ground and distance, a rolling landscape unfolds, full of lush foliage and verdant pastures dappled in a rosy sunlit glow. While her artwork reflects the influence of her famous brother, Sarah Cole's work is nonetheless endowed by a sensibility that is delicate, meticulous, and uniquely feminine.