



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Verner Moore White (1863-1923)

Verner White, landscape and portrait painter, was born in Lunenburg County, near Richmond, Virginia, October 5, 1863. He was the son of Thomas Ward and Alice Fleming (Cralle) White. His father was a Presbyterian clergyman who served as chaplain in the Civil War and later president of the Reidsville, South Carolina, Female College and the Greensboro, South Carolina, Female College.

White's early education was under a private tutor until seventeen years of age, when he entered Southwestern Presbyterian University of Clarksville, Tennessee. Having shown a talent for art in his childhood and giving much of his time to its study, upon graduation from the University in 1884, he began his art career in Delaud, Florida, painting landscapes among the magnolia trees, orange groves and cypress swamps of Florida and southern Georgia. In 1885 he opened a studio in Mobile, Alabama, where he received commissions for portraits from Southerners of prominence, including Jefferson Davis, former President of the Confederacy.

White left for Europe in 1887, studying art in Paris for four years, and later in Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Liege. Later he pursued his work at Rouen, Biarritz and Pau. He returned to America in December of 1895, and resided in Galveston, and later San Antonio, Texas. In 1902 he was awarded a commission to paint a series of twelve large pictures representing the scenic beauty and resources of the state for the Texas building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. At that Exposition he was also awarded a first prize for a still life titled "Basket of Peaches."

After the Exposition, White married Mertie Boughton and moved to St. Louis, where he served as special correspondent and artist for the *St. Louis Globe*. He opened a studio in St. Louis and taught there and at Chautauqua, New York, for a number of years. He was a member of the National Arts, New York, The St. Louis Art League, and President of the Bestor Class of 1926 at Chautauqua.

The artist painted many marine and hunting scenes, but he loved best, especially during the last of his active days, to depict the beauties of springtime, particularly the blossoming fruit trees. As an artist he was original, vigorous and poetical. His canvases displayed a deep love of nature and reflected the delightful optimism of his life. He was a man of engaging personality, simple, sincere, and gracious and was a brilliant conversationalist.

Verner White's death occurred at Chautauqua, New York, August 30, 1923, of heart failure while at a banquet given in his honor.

Biography courtesy of Askart.com