



**Clara Lotte von Marcard-Cucuel (1897-1968)**

*Still Life with Magnolias in a Glass Vase*

Oil on canvas

25 x 30 inches

Signed lower right

Clara Lotte von Marcard-Cucuel was a German flower and landscape painter who emigrated to the United States. She was an established member of the Hartmannsberg circle of artists, who painted the idyllic rural landscape of southern Germany around Hartmannsberg Castle in Upper Bavaria in the foothills of the Alps. In 1912, it was through this network of artists that she met her husband, fellow impressionist painter Edward Cucuel, whom she married in 1913. From 1914-18, the couple was based in the artist community of Holzhausen on the Ammersee, later maintaining studios in Munich and Starnberg, a lake district southwest of the city.

Between 1928-34, the couple spent their winters in the United States, particularly New York, and traveled to Starnberg during the summer months. They also frequently traveled throughout Italy and France. With the start of the Second World War in 1939, the couple left Europe indefinitely. All of their property left behind in Munich was destroyed in a bombing in 1944.<sup>1</sup>

This still life of magnolias is representative of Marcard-Cucuel's typical style in its impressionistic handling of paint, as well as its sensitive treatment of her favored subject – flowers in glass vases. The large blooms of the white magnolias burst forth from the vase, their petals framed by immense green leaves, which visually separate the flowers from the painting's white background. Marcard-Cucuel depicts the flowers in multiple stages of development – from unopened buds, to flowers just beginning to blossom and finally to the

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<sup>1</sup> Biographical details courtesy of Galerie der Panther.



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height of their beauty in full bloom. Though some of the flowers droop downwards, Marcard-Cucuel eschews the depiction of falling leaves and petals, or other signs of deterioration, which sometimes appear in her other floral still lifes. The red tubular flowers that emerge from the arrangement at the bottom of the composition are likely standing cypress or trumpet-creepers, flowers which, like magnolias, flourish in the American South. The selection of flowers in this painting indicates that it was likely painted during Marcard-Cucuel's time in the United States, possibly during a trip to the South.