



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Harry Franklin Waltman (1871-1951)

Harry Franklin Waltman was born in 1871 in Kilbuck, Ohio. He studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. and later at the Academie Julian in Paris under Benjamin Constant and John Paul Laurens.¹ He began his career as a portraitist and painted many notable members of society in the United States and in London. His subjects included Lady Cunard, the novelist George Moore, and American composer John Philip Sousa.²

In 1907, Waltman was commissioned by American industrialist John W. Gates to paint a portrait of Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives.³ In 1914, the artist exhibited what the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called, “a very good painting of John Philip Sousa...” at the Philadelphia Art Club.⁴

Waltman eventually changed his focus from portraiture to landscape painting. In 1910, he became acquainted with landscapists G. Glenn Newell, Walter C. Hartson, and Arthur J. Powell. The artists often painted in Dover Plains where Newell had taken up residence. After some persuading, Waltman, Hartson and Powell established their own studios in the area. Waltman’s studio was located near the falls of Ten Mile River.⁵

In 1915, his landscape work was exhibited in a two-man show with sculptor William Dryden Paddock at New York’s Salmagundi Club. His work included subjects such as *The Abandoned Quarry* in Rockland, Maine as well as depictions of the Croton River. Compared to an exhibition of Waltman’s work held at the club two years earlier the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* said, “In this exhibition [Waltman] strikes a fresher, more virile and more sunny note than in the last.” The artist’s paintings of winter and moonlight are said to be, “Suavely painted...” including *Gusty Night* which was notable for having been painted outdoors at night.⁶

In 1917, Waltman contributed a painting of Prospect Park’s Vale of Cashmere to an exhibition of National Academicians and associate members held at Loeser’s in Brooklyn. The painting was

¹ “Harry Waltman, Dover Artist” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York), Wed, Jan 24, 1951, 17.

² “Waltman Returns to the East,” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York), Tue, Mar 5, 1946, 8.

³ “Painted Uncle Joe’s Picture,” *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), Sat, Mar 2, 1907, 8.

⁴ “Twofold Exhibit At The Art Club,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Sun, Mar 8, 1914, 3.

⁵ “Feature Stories,” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York), Sun, Jun 21, 1953, 6A.

⁶ “The World of Art,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Brooklyn, New York), Wed, Dec 1, 1915, 21.



HAWTHORNE Fine Art

said to be, “well presented...” by *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.⁷ In 1921, Waltman’s *Deep Snow* was displayed during the 12th Annual Exhibition of American Artists held at the Carnegie Library in Fort Worth, Texas.⁸

In 1946, a critic for the *Poughkeepsie Journal* referred to Waltman as “A landscape painter of distinction...” following an exhibition of his work titled *Willows and Winter* held at the Grand Central Art Galleries on New York’s East 57th Street.⁹ During the same year, Waltman was elected a life member of the National Art Club along with fellow painters Joseph H. Boston, William Glackens, Leon Kroll, to name a few.¹⁰

During his lifetime, Waltman had several one-person shows including at the Howard Young, Ferargil, and Grand Central Galleries. He became an associate member of the National Academy in 1917 and also held memberships with Allied Artists, the Salmagundi Club, Kent Art Association, and the Dutchess County Art Association.¹¹

Harry Franklin Waltman died at the age of 79 in 1951.

⁷ “Art Exhibition Seen at Loeser’s,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Brooklyn, New York), Sun, Mar 11, 1917, 56.

⁸ “Art Exhibition Opens Jan. 11; To Last Month,” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Sun, Jan 2, 1921, 21.

⁹ “Dover Plains Artist Exhibiting in New York,” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York) · Tue, Mar 5, 1946, 8.

¹⁰ “Art Notes,” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York), Tue, Mar 5, 1946, 8.

¹¹ “Harry Waltman, Dover Artist” *Poughkeepsie Journal* (Poughkeepsie, New York), Wed, Jan 24, 1951, 17.