



## HAWTHORNE Fine Art



### **CLARA ELLIS (19TH CENTURY)**

*California Quail and Chicks*

Oil on canvas

14 1/4 x 18 1/4 inches

Signed and dated 1878, lower right

Clara Ellis studied in the Woman's Art Department at the Cooper Institute. She received her certificate in 1872.<sup>1</sup> In 1873, during the 14<sup>th</sup> annual reception of the department she was awarded second prize for her cast drawing of the *Venus de Milo*. The Ladies exhibition, according to *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, drew a crowd numbering close to ten thousand people.<sup>2</sup> While little else is known about the artist's life, she appears to have moved to the West Coast where *California Quail and Chicks* was likely painted. An archival city directory indicates that she was residing in Oakland, California in 1878.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Summary Report of the Operations of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art for 1871-72* (New York: The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, 1872) 9.

<sup>2</sup> "Distribution of Prizes," *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (New York, NY) June 14, 1873, 224.

<sup>3</sup> Oakland, California, City Directory, 1878