



Joyous Color

THE ART OF
RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Rhoda
Holmes



WELCOME

“Only serious subjects attract her; but in everything she finds joyous color.”

Hawthorne Fine Art is pleased to share the work of celebrated artist and educator, Rhoda Holmes Nicholls. Born in Coventry, England, Nicholls attended the Bloomsbury School of Art in London and was awarded the Queens Scholarship which allowed her to study in Italy for three years. In Rome, she studied under the tutelage of artist's Giuseppe Cammeranno and Achille Vertunni and attended the evening classes of the Circolo Artistico, a professional artist's club. She was elected a member of the Roman Watercolor Society, a rare distinction for a woman.

Following her marriage in 1884 to American artist Burr H. Nicholls, Nicholls moved to New York and quickly gained a reputation as one of the finest painters of Venetian subjects. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* stated in 1885 that the artist's, “strongest and most striking pictures are drawn from the picturesque life of Venice which she paints, both in water-colors and in oil, with a spirit, power and sparkle no painter in America can equal...”

In 1892, several of the artist's Venetian works were published in *Venetian Days* by American author William Dean Howells. Illustrations of her work published in *The Art Amateur* the same year included a line drawing of *A Quiet Corner in St. Marks*. The same scene which features two figures kneeling in prayer and executed in watercolor can be found in the present collection. In 1893, Nicholls was featured in art critic Frances M. Benson's *Five Women Artists of New York* in the *The Quarterly Illustrated*.

While highly skilled in oils and watercolor Nicholls began devoting herself to the latter. Soon after her arrival in New York City, she began teaching from her home on West 50th Street. Within a decade she was heading the watercolor department of William Merritt Chase's Shinnecock Summer School on Long Island. During the early 20th century, Nicholls held art classes throughout the Northeast including at the Art Society of Hartford,

Connecticut in 1903 and in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

A vice-president of the New York Watercolor Club, Nicholls held memberships with the Woman's Art Club of New York, and of Canada, and the Aquarelle Club of Rome. She was also an editor of the art publication *Palette and Bench*.

The collection herein reveals Nicholls process from delicate washes and color notations in *Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute, Venice* to her mastery of sunlight effects in works such as *Peasant Woman and Child* and *Reclining Lady with Dog*.



Please contact us for inquiries on the works presented herein by email: info@hawthornefineart.com or by phone: 212.731.0550. A biography of the artist is available on our website: www.hawthornefineart.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Krieger, *Managing Partner*
Megan Bongiovanni, *Research Associate*

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RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Sailboat, Venice
Watercolor on paper
6 1/8 (window) x 3 5/8/ 11 x 7 1/2 (mat)
Estate of the Artist





RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute, Venice

Watercolor and graphite on paper

7 ½ x 4 ½ (window) / 11 ½ x 9 (mat)

Estate of the Artist

Inscribed along bottom: 'Sky grey warmer
than Salute'



RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Harbor Scene, Gloucester, MA

Gouache on paper

10 1/2 x 16 inches (window) / 17 1/2 x 22 (mat)

Signed Rhoda Holmes Nicholls at lower right



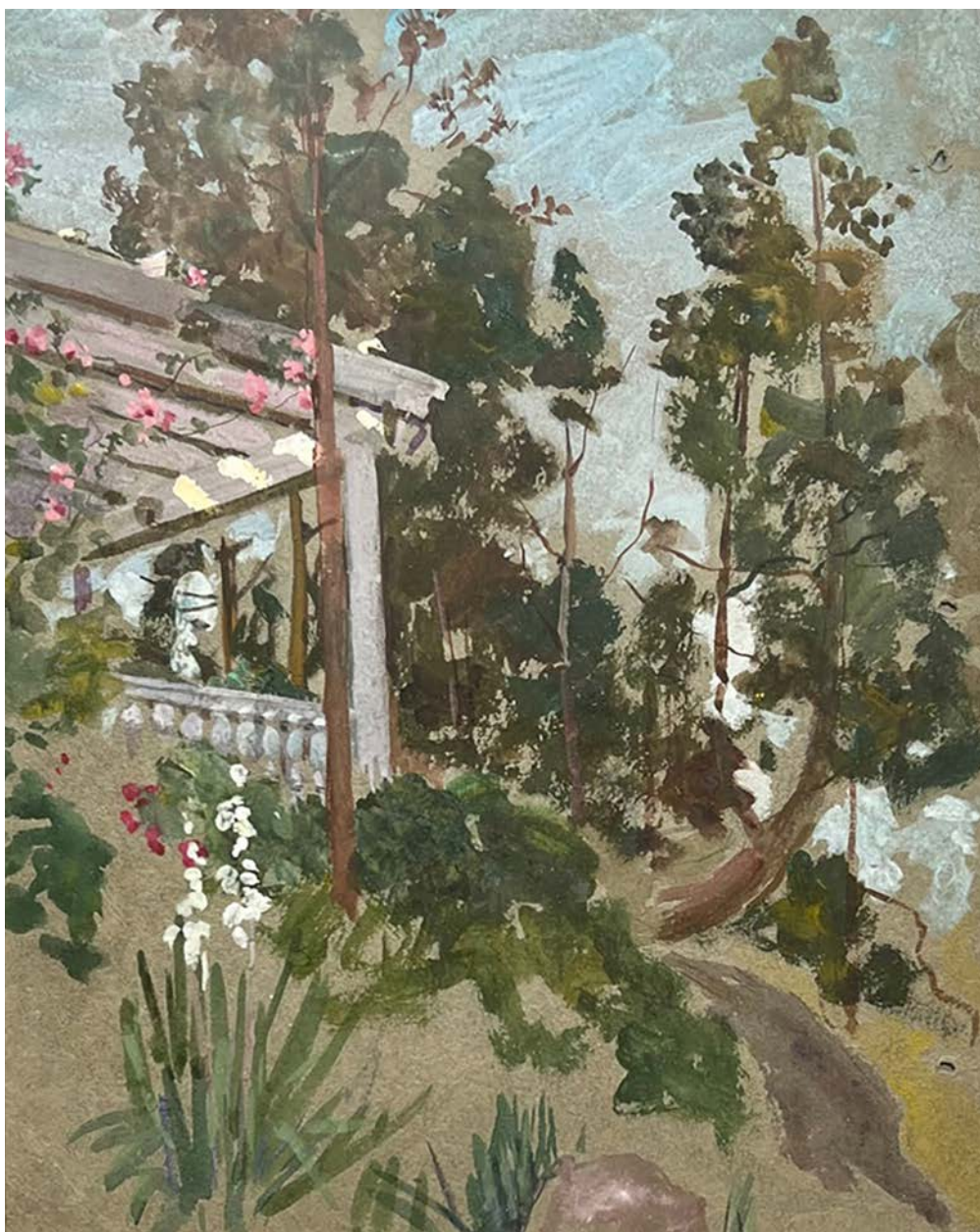
RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

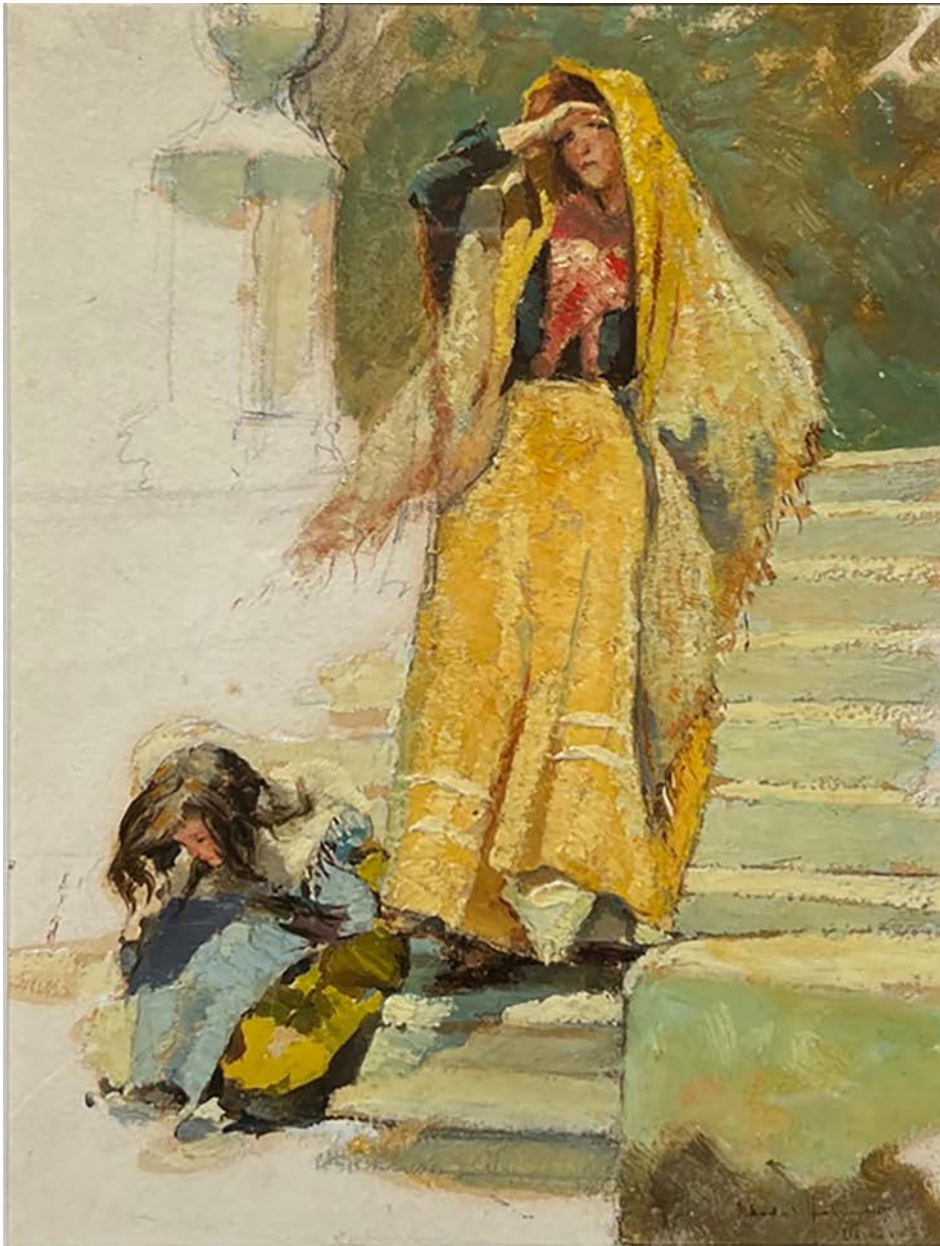
Reclining Lady with Dog
Watercolor on paper
12 ¼ x 15½ (window) / 13 x 16 ¼ (mat)
Signed Rhoda Holmes Nicholls at lower right

RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Garden Scene

Watercolor and Gouache on paper
10 ¼ x 8 ¼ (window) / 14 x 12 ½ (mat)
Estate of the Artist



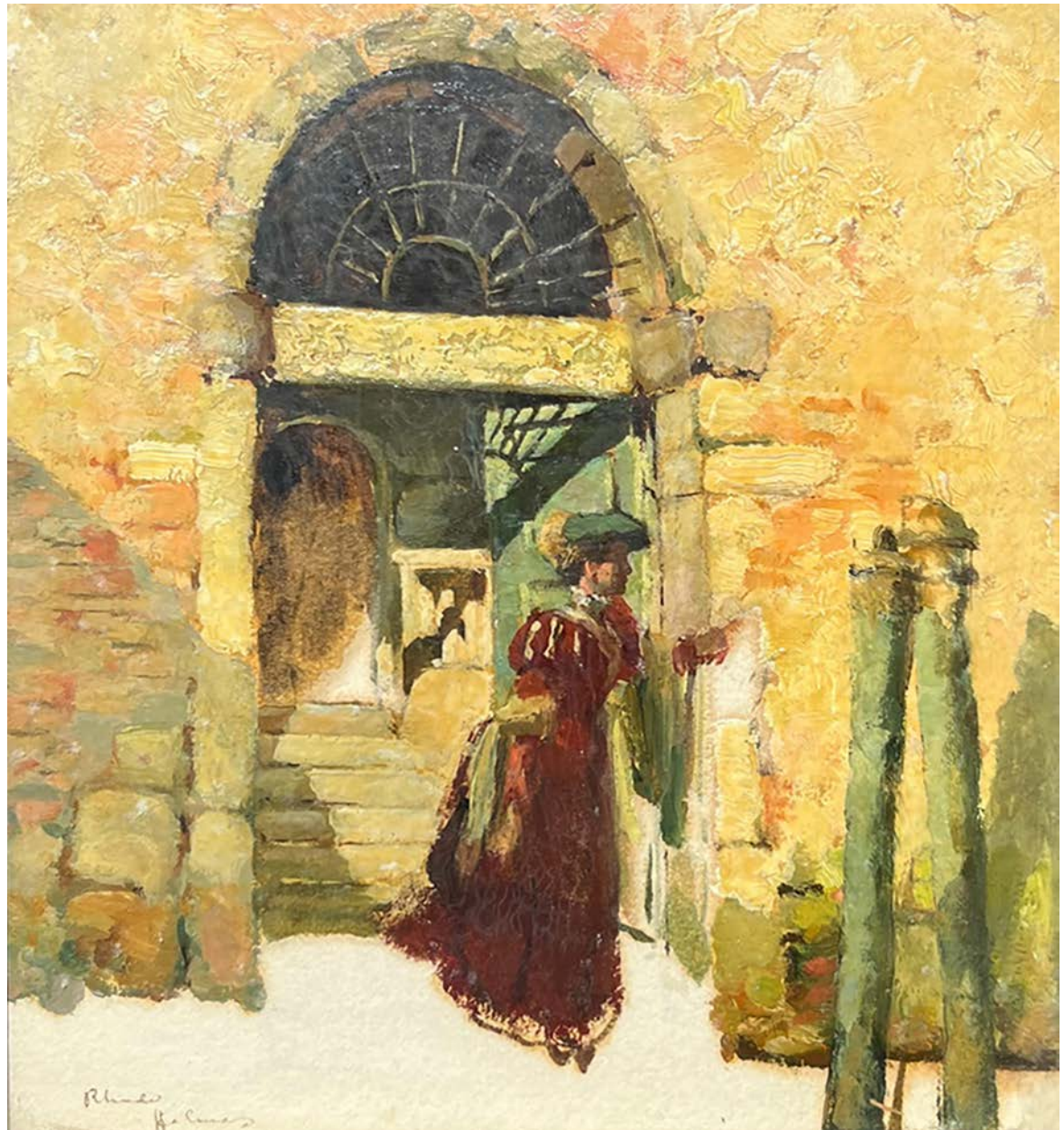


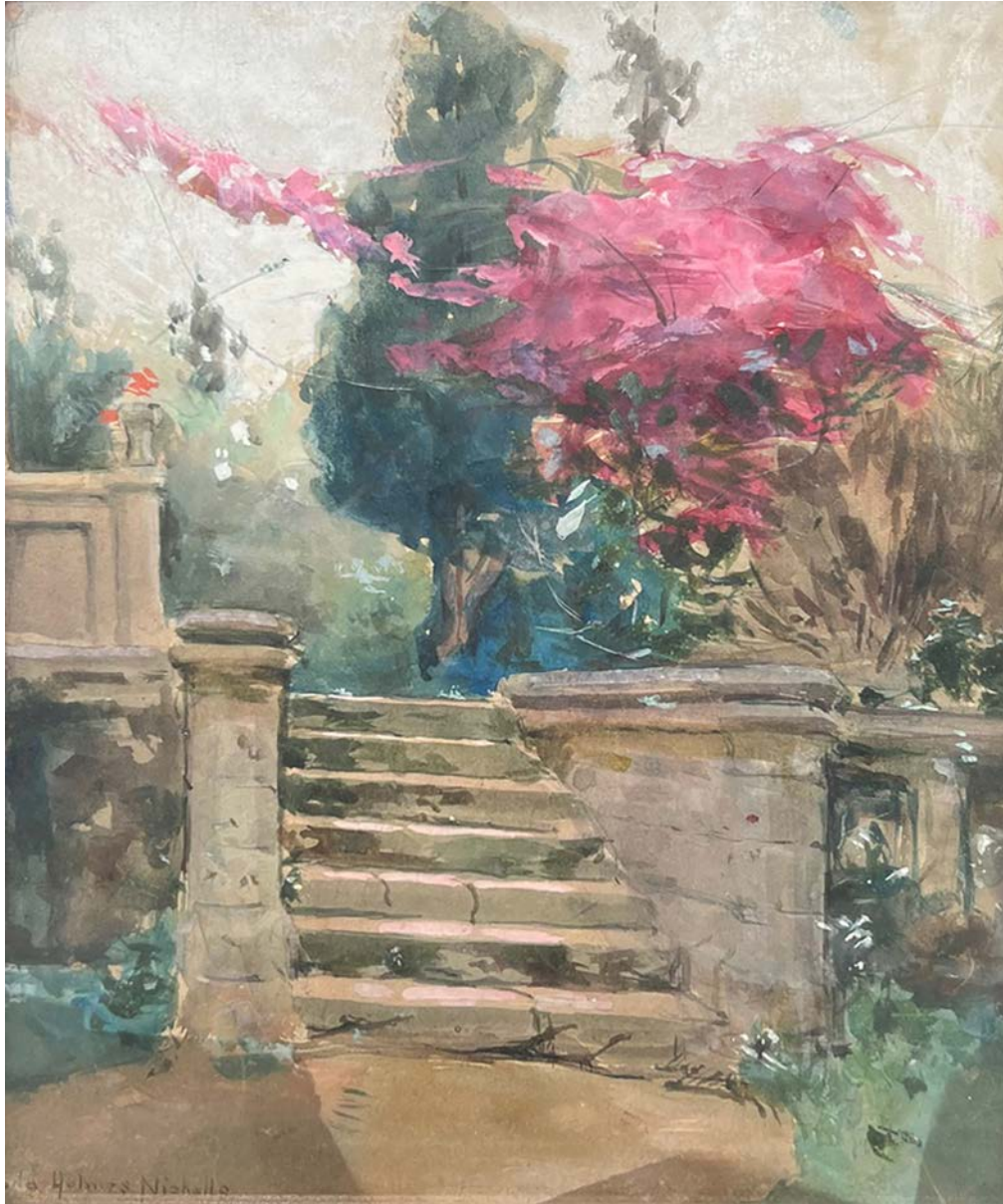
RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Italian Woman and Child
Oil and graphite on paper
9 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ (window)/16 x 13.5 (mat)
Signed Rhoda Holmes and inscribed Venice
at lower right

RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Woman Waiting in Doorway, Venice
Oil on paper
8 x 7 1/8 (sight) / 8 3/8 x 7 5/8 (actual)
Signed Rhoda Holmes at lower left





RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Garden Stairs, Italy

Watercolor on paper

9 1/2 x 7 1/2 (window) / 10 1/4 x 8 1/4 (mat)

Signed Rhoda Holmes Nicholls at lower left

RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Portrait of a Woman
Watercolor on paper
13 x 10 (window)/ 17 1/4 x 14 (mat)
Signed Rhoda Holmes Nicholls at lower right



RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

*A Quiet Corner in St. Mark's (two signed sketches
on one sheet)*

Watercolor and graphite on paper
9 x 5 1/8 (window) x 15 x 9 (mat)
Signed Rhoda Holmes at lower right
below each sketch





RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Church Steeple in an Italian Mountain Landscape

Oil on canvas

Graphite, Pen and ink, and watercolor on paper

4 5/8 x 7 1/4 (window) / 8 1/4 x 10 (mat)

Estate of the Artist



RHODA HOLMES NICHOLLS
(1854-1930)

Venetian Scene

Pen and Ink and ink wash on paper
3 1/4 x 8 5/8 (window)/14 3/4 x 10 3/4
(mat)

Initialed R.H.N. at lower left





HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

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