



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

GEORGE WALTER DAWSON (1870-1938)

White Water Lily, 1912

Watercolor on paper

10 x 10 in

Signed and dedicated by the artist in pencil lower right: "George Walter Dawson to Amy & Thornton Oakley"

PROVENANCE: Gift of the artist to husband and wife team of writer-illustrators, Amy and Thornton Oakley; Mrs. Thornton Oakley, Philadelphia; Charles F. Hazeltine, Philadelphia; Sotheby's, New York, April 5, 1995, lot 0147A.

George Walter Dawson was born in Andover, Massachusetts to Jackson Thornton and Mary (McKenna) Dawson. He attended school at the Massachusetts Normal Art School and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and was the president and founding member of the Philadelphia Water Color Club, and Professor of Drawing and the University of Pennsylvania. An accomplished watercolorist, Dawson was also a member of the Chicago Water Color Club.

This watercolor *White Water Lily* is typical of Dawson's garden paintings, for which he was best known. *Art and Progress* believed that Dawson,

... almost more than any other painter, translated the poignant charm of the garden, with its blossoming plants and shrubs, its light and shade, its indescribably loveliness. ... The flowers he paints, whether in mass or singly, seem to live. One can fancy them stirred by a breath of wind, fragrant, perishable.¹

Like many of his works, *White Water Lily* shows the influence of Japanese woodblock prints in its flattened washes of color, typical of the Japonisme style around the turn of the century. This watercolor is dedicated to the artists and book illustrators Thornton and Amy Oakley. Dawson most likely knew Thornton Oakley from the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Water Color Club.

¹ "[Illustration]: An Old New England Cottage Rose. George Walter Dawson," *Art and Progress* 5, no. 7 (May, 1914).