



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Chester S. Kingsley (20th Century)

Chester S. Kingsley was born on October 27th, 1878 in Flint, Michigan to Eureka and William P. Kingsley, a foreman in a planing mill. He attended Detroit High school, and in 1896 he illustrated the school's monthly literary publication.¹ Census records and city directories indicate that Kingsley was working as an artist in Detroit until he left for New York on November 22, 1900.²

Kingsley studied under Edmund C. Tarbell in the Department of Design at the Museum School in Boston. In 1903, he was awarded the Sears Prize in the portrait class by Mrs. Montgomery Sears, an accomplished painter and patron of the arts.³ Kingsley continued his studies at the Académie Julian in Paris.⁴

In 1906, Kingsley's portrait of the young Courtland Larned, the son of clothing manufacturer Mr. A.E. Larned, was displayed in the window of Wright, Kay & Co, a jewelry store in Detroit. The painting received considerable praise. A critic in the Detroit Free Press described the painting as, "broadly impressionistic in treatment. A little lad in a black Russian suit sits with his hands folded before him. There is a very dark background, which, with the dark dress serves to throw into strong relief the bright gold hair, the pale face and the deep blue eyes that are half wistful, half mischievous...there is character in this child face and much charm which justifies the expectations of those who look forward to much success for the young artist."⁵

¹ "Credit to the High School", Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) · Fri, May 29, 1896 · Page 5

² "Personals", Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) · Sun, Nov 25, 1900 · Page 12

³ The American Architect and Building News, Volume 82, James R. Osgood & Co., 1903 p. 26

⁴ "Admired By Throngs", Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) · Sun, Apr 15, 1906 · Page 14

⁵ Ibid



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By 1910, Kingsley had settled in New York where he lived and worked for nearly a decade. He twice traveled to Bermuda (1913 and 1914) and created watercolors later exhibited in Philadelphia and New York.

In his lifetime, Kingsley exhibited in three consecutive exhibitions with the Philadelphia Watercolor Club held at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1912-1914) and the Twenty-Fourth Annual New York Watercolor Club Exhibition in 1913.