



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### Arthur Beckwith (1860-1930)

Arthur Beckwith was born in the parish of St. Pancras, Middlesex, England in 1860 to Sarah Thomlinson and Benjamin Samuel Beckwith, a watercolorist. Beckwith moved to the United States in 1884 and settled in San Francisco. In 1889, he married Emma Foster.<sup>1</sup> In 1892, the couple had a son, Allen H. Beckwith, who later worked as a lithographer.

In 1912, Beckwith's work was exhibited in Oakland with artists Charles Rollo Peters and Charles H. Grant. During the exhibition, Beckwith's work was lauded by friends and critics alike."<sup>2</sup> The following year, the artist contributed a painting entitled *The Cloud* to the San Francisco Institute of Art's spring exhibition.<sup>3</sup> Around the same time, Beckwith's work was included in an exhibition and sale of American and European artists in the rotunda of the Russ Building in San Francisco.<sup>4</sup>

In the autumn of 1914, Beckwith's painting entitled *Misty Morning* was a favorite among viewers during an exhibition of California artists held at the McHenry Library in Modesto.<sup>5</sup> The following year, Beckwith exhibited with artists including A. Sheldon Pennoyer and Maynard Dixon at the Golden Gate Park Memorial Museum. The critic for the *San Francisco Examiner* found Beckwith's *Greenbrae Slough* and *The Cloud* to be, "very good paintings."<sup>6</sup> In August of the same year, Beckwith's work was shown beside artists including George Inness, A.H. Wyant, and Auguste Bonheur at the Blanchard Gallery. The artist's work included "a study of a misty autumnal landscape painted near San Lorenzo. It is a charming thing in tones of gray-blue and gray-green, and is simply, suavely and exquisitely done."<sup>7</sup>

A member of the Sequoia Club, Beckwith contributed to an exhibition held at the club in 1916.<sup>8</sup> In 1919, the *San Francisco Examiner* referred to Beckwith as one of several "Famous artists" exhibiting at the Sequoia Club.<sup>9</sup> An member of the Bohemian Club, Beckwith regularly contributed to the club's annual exhibitions including in 1918, 1920, 1923, and 1926. During the 1926 exhibition the *Oakland Tribune* found Beckwith's painting of the Grand Canyon to be, "well done considering the subject."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Married," *San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, California), Wed, Aug 28, 1889, 5.

<sup>2</sup> "In Woman's World," *San Francisco Call* (San Francisco, California), Wed, Nov 20, 1912, 11.

<sup>3</sup> "News of Art and Artists," *San Francisco Call* (San Francisco, California), Sun, Apr 6, 1913, 46.

<sup>4</sup> "Hundred Canvases to be Sold at Auction," *San Francisco Call* (San Francisco, California), Thu, May 22, 1913, 1.

<sup>5</sup> "Art Exhibit," *Modesto Evening News* (Modesto, California), Sat, Nov 7, 1914, 3.

<sup>6</sup> "High Artistic Merit Shown In Paintings," *San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, California), Sun, May 2, 1915, 65.

<sup>7</sup> "Art and Artists," *Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California), Sun, Aug 8, 1915, 28.

<sup>8</sup> "Art Exhibit," *San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, California), Sun, May 14, 1916, 26.

<sup>9</sup> "Sequoia Club Art Display," *San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, California), Wed, May 7, 1919, 11.

<sup>10</sup> "Artists and their Work," *Oakland Tribune* (Oakland, California), Sun, Feb 28, 1926, 63.



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In 1929, the *Napa Valley Register* referred to Beckwith as a, “noted artist whose paintings of landscapes and marine scenes are among the finest in the world...” Beckwith traveled to Napa to visit his cousin and talented watercolorist, Miss Corinne Plass. After viewing Miss Plass’ watercolors, Beckwith took her under his tutelage in the study of oil painting.<sup>11</sup> Beckwith often visited the area of Napa to visit cousins and to seek out beautiful spots for sketching. In 1930, Dana Burnett, a writer for both the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Colliers* joined him on such a trip.<sup>12</sup>

Arthur Beckwith died in 1930.

### Additional References:

Askart.com

Ancestry.com

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<sup>11</sup> “Noted Artist Visited Here This Morning,” *Napa Valley Register* (Napa, California), Fri, Mar 29, 1929, 6.

<sup>12</sup> “San Francisco Artist Visited Here,” *Napa Journal* (Napa, California), Tue, Jun 3, 1930, 3.