



PAULINE PALMER (1867-1938)

On the Beach

Watercolor on paper

6 x 8 inches

Signed "Pauline Palmer," lower right; Titled and signed again, verso

"Here is what Mrs. Pauline Palmer says a woman must have to become a successful painter: correct training; ability to do a man's work; sympathy with the model; personality plus work, plus concentration, plus more work."

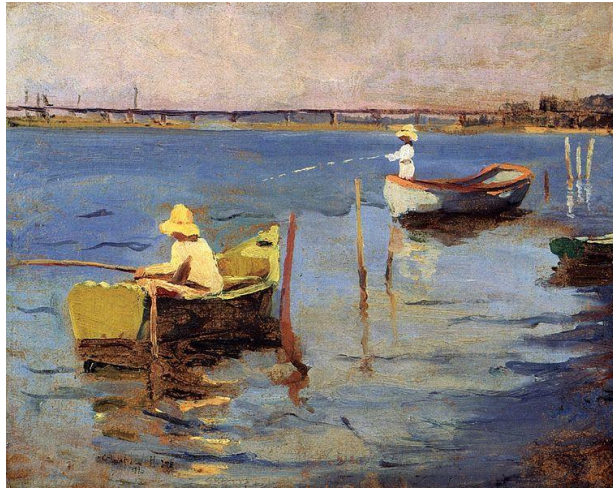
Pauline Palmer of Chicago, Illinois, was in her time an extremely distinguished and accomplished artist—often cited in her time as the, "outstanding woman painter in America." A central figure of the artistic community of the midwest, Palmer had the distinction of being the first woman president of the Chicago Society of Artists. Palmer attended the Chicago Art Institute, where she studied with William Merritt Chase (1849-1916) and Kenneth Hayes Miller (1876-1952), before traveling to Paris to study under the French academicians Lucien J. Simon (1861-1945), Gustave-Claude-Étienne Courtois (1852-1923) and Raphaël Collin (1850-1916).

Palmer exhibited widely throughout her career, including shows at the Paris Salon (by 1903) and at the Naples Exposition of Fine Arts (1911). Palmer's paintings—often portraits of women and girls enjoying leisure activities—are testaments to her impressive talents as an artist, and her fluency in Impressionist techniques. *Woman on Provincetown Harbor Beach* is a striking example of this illustrative talent and her skill in watercolor.

In this scene, a young woman stands amongst beached boats near the harbor dock with the town's bridge in the distance. Palmer and her husband, Dr. Albert Palmer, kept a summer home in Provincetown, Massachusetts, a small coastal resort town at the tip of Cape Cod with a thriving fishing port. The couple became active members of the local art community, and Palmer quickly befriended the families of many of the local Portuguese fishermen, whose wives and children frequently became her models and whose daily lives often featured in her work.



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art



Charles Webster Hawthorne, *The Bridge at Provincetown*. Oil on cardboard. Private collection.

While fishing was primarily an economic endeavor in Provincetown, it was also a popular leisure activity, as seen in Charles Webster Hawthorne's *The Bridge at Provincetown*, where two figures enjoy a relaxing day of fishing on the calm waters of the harbor. Palmer was Hawthorne's pupil, and his influence can be seen in her Impressionist style and subject matter of waterfront leisure scenes painted *en plein air*. Indeed, *Woman on Provincetown Harbor Beach* seems to have been painted from a similar viewpoint along the shoreline, and the young woman appears as if ready to enter one of the awaiting skiffs to enjoy an afternoon on the water. The cool blue and purple tones of the serene skyline and open water contribute to the scene's overall sense of calm and tranquility.