



HAWTHORNE Fine Art

CHESTER C. HAYES (1867 - 1947)

Chester Hayes was born in 1867 in Canandaigua, New York. His father, Joseph, was a local physician. Hayes received his first art instruction in Rochester, New York. After graduating from Williams College in 1889, Hayes moved to Paris in order to advance his artistic training at the Académie Julian. He remained in Paris from 1890 until 1900, studying under distinguished masters, such as Benjamin Jean-Joseph Constant (1845-1902) and Jules-Joseph Lefebvre (1836-1911), and exhibiting in various European galleries. In 1900, he moved to Trépiéd, Cucq in northern France, and kept a studio in Brittany. The atmosphere of northern France inspired many of his subjects, where he captured the effect of sunlight on the landscape. In addition to landscapes, Hayes was also known for his figurative and genre scenes. A critic once noted, “There is no hint of ultra-modernism in Mr. Hayes’s paintings but he is a painter, not a transcriber of mere scenes and people through the medium of paint, it is said.”¹

By 1918, Hayes had gained a reputation in the United States. He moved back to his home country, where he settled in Toledo, Ohio, continuing to work as an artist and exhibiting his paintings at the National Academy of Design. He was also a member of the New York Water Color Society. Hayes seems to have traveled back to Europe on numerous occasions to paint. In 1930, he was appointed a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

In 1947, at the age of eighty, Hayes was tragically struck and killed by a car in LaJolla, California.

¹ “Canandaiguan Has Paintings on Exhibition,” *Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY), Feb. 13, 1929.