



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

GEORGE FORSTER (1817-1896)

Still Life with Fruit

Oil on panel

8 x 10 7/8 inches

Unsigned

The lifelike manner in which George Forster paints still-lives recalls the style of seventeenth century Dutch masters. Forster's pyramidal compositions of fruit are also akin to those of his Dusseldorf contemporary still-life painter and teacher, Johann Wilhelm Pryor (1803-1889). Forster would have been exposed to Pryor's influential style as a native of Germany.¹ It is believed that the artist emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1848.² Forster's paintings are featured in the collections of The Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University and The Birmingham Museum of Art among other prominent collections.

Forster's still-lives are literally a feast for the eyes. He elevates fruit and other seemingly ordinary still-life objects to the realm of pure visual delight. *Still Life with Fruit* presents a colorful display of sparkling, ripe fruit. Demonstrating his technical virtuosity in describing nuances of color and texture, the artist depicts soft peaches, silken plums, succulent grapes, velvet apricots and crisp walnuts set in a rich outdoor landscape covered by a leafy canopy. Certain small elements of the composition bring a delicious delicacy and exquisite detail into this artful cornucopia.

¹ Baekeland, Frederick, *Images of America: The Painter's Eye, 1833-1925*, (Birmingham: The Birmingham Museum of Art, 1991) 126.

² Ibid, 126.