



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

CLARK GREENWOOD VOORHEES (1871-1933)

Winter Forest

Oil on board

6 x 9 inches

Signed lower right

Clark Greenwood Voorhees was a founder of the Old Lyme Art Colony and a talented landscapist who melded Tonalism with Impressionism to extraordinary effect. The son of a stockbroker, Voorhees was born on May 29, 1871, in New York City. He was originally drawn to the sciences, earning a B.A. in Chemistry from Yale and an M.A. in the same subject from Columbia. Increasingly unfulfilled by laboratory work, Voorhees, who had always been dedicated to observation and study of the natural world, began devoting more and more of his time to sketching out-of-doors. While still at Columbia, he enrolled in classes at the Art Students League; a few years later, in 1897, he moved to Paris in order to study art at the famed Académie Julian under J.P. Laurens and Benjamin Constant.

Voorhees first visited and fell in love with Old Lyme, Connecticut in 1893. He returned several times throughout the 1890s and was one of the very first of the Old Lyme artists to stay at the now-famous Florence Griswold House, which became the center of the Old Lyme colony's artistic life. Soon after the turn of the century, many other artists followed in Voorhees's footsteps, setting up studios in Old Lyme and forming what American Art scholar William Gerds has called "the most famous Impressionist-oriented art colony in America."¹

Voorhees achieved considerable recognition during his lifetime, exhibiting regularly along with the other members of the Old Lyme Art Colony as well as at exhibitions held by the National Academy of Design, the Society of American Artists, the American Watercolor Society, the Carnegie Institute, and the Art Institute of Chicago. He was also the recipient of several honors, including a bronze medal at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition.

Early on in his career, Voorhees became especially well-known for his winter scenes. *Winter Forest* is a small, gem-like example; the picture plane is filled with the overlapping, almost feathery branches of a forest in wintertime. Bright, white snow blankets the ground and the deep blue of distant hills peeks through the trees.

¹William H. Gerds, *American Impressionism* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1984), 221.