



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Zoe Worthington Fiske (1864–1942)**

Zoe Worthington Fiske was born in Philadelphia on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864 to Elizabeth Worthington Hand and the Rev. Dr. Asa Severance Fiske. A Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Fiske served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army requiring the family to move frequently. During his tenure the family lived in New York, New England, Washington D.C. and San Francisco. Her mother was a respected writer of poetry and prose and contributed to magazines and periodicals. Her sister, Christabel Forsythe Fiske was Professor Emeritus of English at Vassar College.<sup>1</sup>

Fiske graduated from Syracuse University in 1891 with a Bachelor of Painting degree. She was a student and member of the Art Students League of New York for two years before traveling to Paris to study at the Academie Montparnasse in 1895.<sup>2</sup>

In 1897, Fisk began teaching art classes at Stanford University while the department head, Bolton Coit Brown (1864-1936), was on a year-long sabbatical in New York.<sup>3</sup> In 1899, Fiske and Brown exhibited the work of their students at a meeting of the National Educational Association in Los Angeles. The exhibition included works in charcoal, pencil, and wash depicting still lifes and landscapes. The event was attended by a large number of Stanford University students and faculty.<sup>4</sup>

In May 1902, Fiske married Morton Arnold Aldrich of Boston. An 1895 graduate of Harvard, Aldrich was a professor of economics at Tulane, University in New Orleans. The couple had two daughters, Helen and Elizabeth.<sup>5</sup>

Zoe Worthington Fiske died in Poughkeepsie, New York while visiting her sister on April 2, 1942.

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<sup>1</sup> “Death of Mrs. Elizabeth Fiske,” Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, New York), Fri, Apr 9, 1909, Page 18.

<sup>2</sup> “Leland Stanford Junior University Bulletins, Volume One, Number One, Stanford University Bulletin,” (Stanford University, 1900) 17

<sup>3</sup> “Changes at Stanford,” The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, California) · Mon, Aug 16, 1897 · Page 3

<sup>4</sup> “Entertaining the Educators,” The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, California) · Sat, Jul 1, 1899 · Page 4

<sup>5</sup> “Harvard College Class of 1895, Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report, Number VI,” (Cambridge, MA: The University Press, 1920) 561