

EMIL GANSO (1895-1941)

Born in Halberstadt, Germany in 1895, Ganso moved to the United States as a teenager. By 1914, Ganso began taking evening classes at the National Academy's School of Fine Arts while working as a baker. Gallerist Erhard Weyhe recognized Ganso's talent, and the artist began exhibiting at the Weyhe Gallery in New York City, where he continued to show his work until the 1940s. Ganso first exhibited at the Society of Independent Artists in 1921, and at the Salons of America from 1922 to 1925. In 1926 Weyhe began to fund Ganso to spend his summers in the art colony of Woodstock, New York, where he eventually settled the following year. After beginning working as an artist full time, Ganso became best known for his erotic figures.

While in Woodstock, Ganso connected with fellow artists including George Bellows, Katherine Schmidt, Alexander Brook and Louis Bouché. From 1927 to 1928, Ganso printed lithographs for Jules Pascin, with whom he shared his Woodstock studio. Ganso visited Pascin in Paris in 1929, where he became inspired by photography and began exploring it as an aid to his art compositions. Ganso received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1933, which allowed him to study and paint in Europe. Eventually, Ganso began working as an artist-in-residence at the University of Iowa in 1940 until his death in Iowa City, Iowa in 1941.