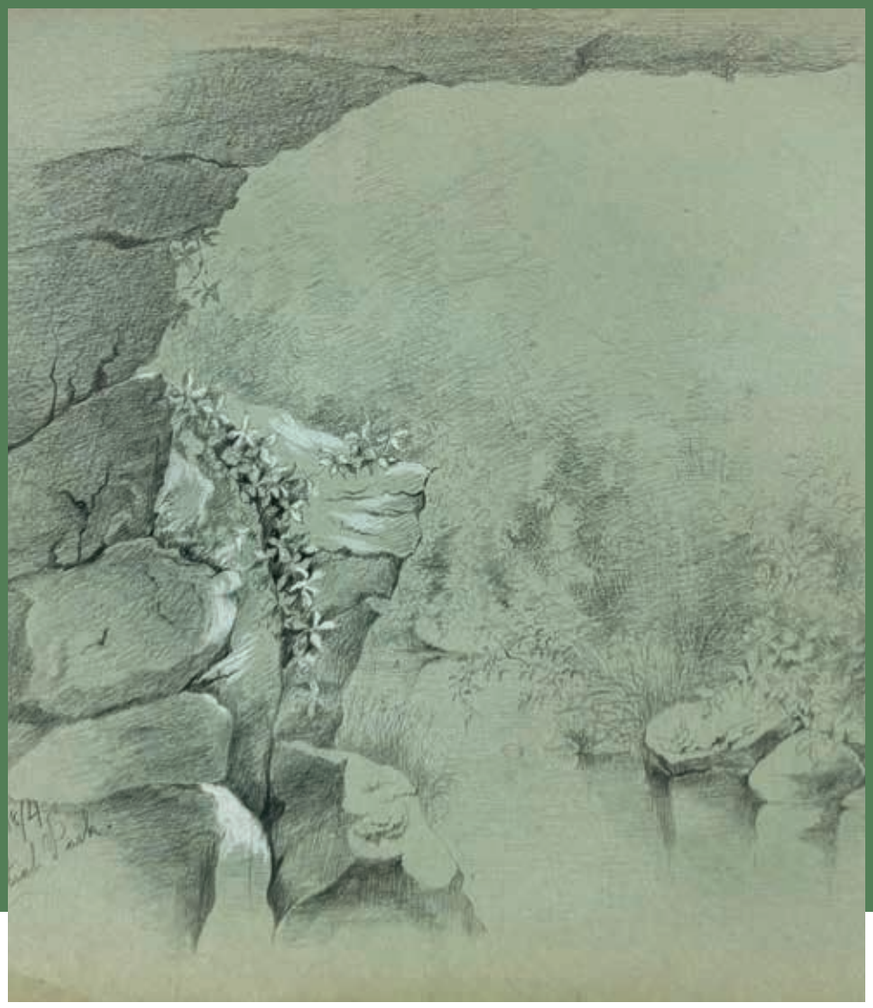
Capturing Nature
SIDE BY SIDE

PART TWO



Julie Hart Beers (1835-1913)
and Marion Robertson Beers Brush (1853-1945),
Mother and Daughter

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Gilbert Brook, Dorset, VT (Detail), Graphite on paper, 10 ½ x 8 ½ inches, Signed Marion R. Beers, inscribed Gilbert Brook, Dorset, and dated July 21st 1875 at lower right

Welcome

Hawthorne Fine Art is pleased to share the work of Julie Hart Beers (1835-1913), and her daughter Marion "Minnie" Robertson Beers Brush (1853-1945). The sister of prominent Hudson River School artists, James McDougal and William Hart, Beers is recognized as one of America's first professional female landscape painters. Raised in Albany, Beers studied under the tutelage of her brother James. Following her marriage to G.W. Beers, a local Albany printer, and the birth of her two daughters, Beers moved to New York City and began exhibiting with the Brooklyn Art Association. She went on to exhibit beside major artists at the National Academy of Design and the Boston Athenaeum.

Following the death of her first husband, Beers led lady artists on sketching trips in New York and New England to earn income, often with her young daughters in tow. Like her mother, and uncles, Minnie Beers was a talented artist. She exhibited with the Brooklyn Art Association, the American Watercolor Society and others, often with her mother.

We are honored to represent the estates of Julie Hart Beers and Marion Robertson Beers Brush. The works herein shed a light on the artistic practice and dedication to craft by two remarkable women. The works further highlight their special bond as mother and daughter, and their delight in capturing nature side-by-side.

Please contact us for inquiries on the works presented herein by email: info@hawthornefineart.com or by phone: 212.731.0550. Please visit our website at www.hawthornefineart.com to view additional works by Julie Hart Beers as well as other historic women artists.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Krieger, *Managing Partner*
Megan Bongiovanni, *Research Associate*

Hawthorne Fine Art, LLC
155 East 55th Street, Suite 5K, New York, NY 10022 (by appointment)

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Woman Reclining
Graphite and Chinese white on paper
9 ¾ x 12 ½ inches
Estate of the artist

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Conway, July 4, 1870
Graphite on paper
6 ¾ x 9 ½ inches
Signed, inscribed with location,
and dated July 4, 1870, lower left

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Child sitting beside Footbridge, 1871
Conte crayon on paper
11 ½ x 16 ¼ inches
Signed and dated 1871, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Lily – Marsh Scene
Graphite on paper
5 ¾ x 3 ½ inches
Estate of the Artist

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Corn Study, January, 1870
Graphite on paper
8 ¾ x 11 inches
Signed and dated, lower right

MARION "MINNIE" ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH (1853-1945)

Elizabethtown, August 5, 1872
Graphite and white gouache on paper
7 ½ x 10 ½ inches
Signed, dated August 5, 1872, and inscribed with location, lower right; Inscribed at lower left:
"Through the meadow, across the stream,
Over the foot-bridge, worn and old,
With the sun's last rays upon the stream,
Tinting it's grays with gold."
[Verse from *An April Walk* by Ellis Yette]

JULIE HART BEERS (1835-1913)

Elizabethtown, August 12th, 1872
Graphite on paper
11 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches
Inscribed 'E-town,' dated August 12th, 1872, and signed Julie H. Beers, lower left

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Irving's Sunnyside in Tarrytown
7 5/8 x 8 inches
Graphite on paper
Estate of the Artist
Inscribed with location, verso

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Elizabethtown, August 2, 1872
Graphite on paper
7 x 10 inches
Inscribed with location, dated August 2, 1872, and signed Marion R. Beers, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Elizabethtown, August 19, 1872
Graphite and white gouache on paper
7 ½ x 10 ½ inches
Signed, inscribed with location, and dated August 19, 1872, lower left; Inscribed "Not lost, but drawn aside" lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Young Girl Behind the Barn
Graphite and white gouache on paper
8 x 11 3/8 inches
Signed, dated September 2, and inscribed with location, lower right; Inscribed at lower left:
"I see through the rosy summer,
True lovers walk home this way,
Where only the birds can listen.
To fond, foolish words they say." [Verse from *Behind the Barn* by Ethel Lynn Beers (1827-1879)]

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Linden Trees
Graphite and white gouache on paper
7 ½ X 10 ½ inches
Signed, inscribed with location, and dated August 20, 1872, lower right; Inscribed with title, lower center; Inscribed "While the last rays are shining under the linden trees" at lower left

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Fern study, Hoosick Falls, August 2, 1873
Graphite on paper
9 x 10 inches
Signed, dated August 2, 1873, and inscribed with location, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH (1853-1945)

Pond at Hoosick Falls, August 4, 1873
Graphite on paper
9 x 10 inches
Signed, dated August 4, 1873, and inscribed with location, lower right

JULIE HART BEERS (1835-1945)

Elm Tree
Graphite on paper
10 ½ x 9 inches
Estate of the Artist

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Central Park, June 20, 1874
Graphite on paper
13 x 10 inches
Inscribed with location, dated June 20, 1874,
and signed Julie H. Beers, lower left

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Central Park, June 20th, 1874
Graphite and white gouache on paper
9 x 12 inches
Signed Marion R. Beers, dated June 20th, 1874
and inscribed Central Park, lower left

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Nature study
Graphite and chinese white on paper
Signed Minnie Beers and dated August 4th, 1874,
lower left

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Boquette River, September 11, 1874
Graphite on paper
7 x 9 inches
Signed and dated September 11, 1874
at lower right; Inscribed with location, lower center

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Ivy, September 15, 1874
Graphite and white gouache on paper
8 ½ x 11 inches
Signed and dated September 15, 1874, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Bits of the Dorset Valley
Graphite and white gouache on paper
9 x 12
Inscribed with title and signed with monogram, lower center

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Gilbert Brook, Dorset, VT, July 21, 1875
Graphite and white gouache on paper
10 ½ x 8 ½ inches
Signed, inscribed with location, and dated July 21, 1875, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Landscape with House, August 4, 1875
Graphite and white gouache on paper
8 ¼ x 7 ½ inches
Signed and dated August 4, 1875, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)
Daisies, Dorset, VT, August 19, 1875
Graphite and white gouache on paper
10 ¼ x 8 ¼ inches
Signed, dated August 19, 1875, and inscribed with location, lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Mount Eolus, VT, August 26, 1875
Graphite and white gouache on paper
10 x 14 inches
Inscribed "Mount Eolus" from "Lecomte's Back"
and dated Aug 26, 1875, lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Dorset, VT
Graphite on paper
10 x 14 inches
Inscribed Dorset, VT, dated Aug 26, 1875, and signed
Julie H. Beers, lower right

MARION ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Child in a Landscape, Dorset, VT, August 30, 1875
Graphite and white gouache on paper
9 x 11 ½ inches
Signed, dated *August 30, 1875*, and inscribed with location, lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Bushkill, PA
Graphite on paper
10 x 7 inches
Inscribed Bushkill, PA and dated July 5, 1880, lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Draw Well and Trough
Graphite on paper
14 x 10 inches
Signed, inscribed Metuchen, and dated 1885
at lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Metuchen
Graphite and white gouache on paper
14 x 10 inches
Signed Julie H. Beers, inscribed Metuchen,
and dated July 1st '85

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Grace Glen, July 28, 1886
Graphite and white gouache on paper
10 x 14 inches
Dated July 28, 1886 and inscribed with location, lower left

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

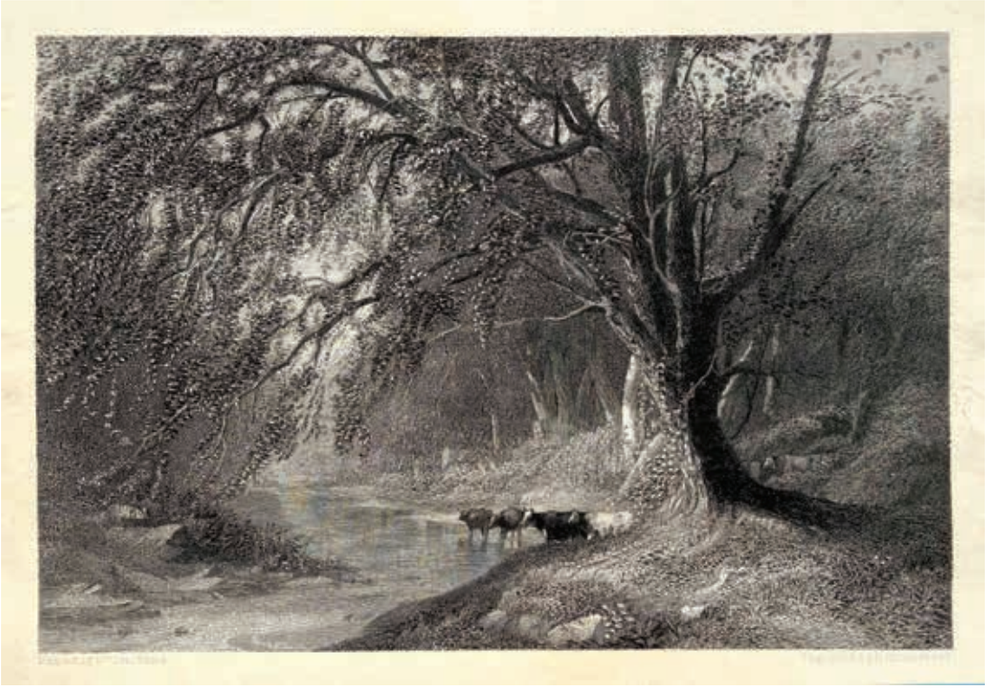
Wood Wild, Metuchen, N.J.
Pencil on paper
13 ½ x 10 inches
Signed, inscribed "Wood Wild" Metuchen, N.J.
and dated Sept. 2nd, 1887

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Bronx Park, August 8th, 1898
Graphite and white gouache on paper
10 x 11 ¼ inches
Dated August 8th, 1898, inscribed with location, and signed lower right

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

Cows Watering
Engraving by Hinshelwood
7 7/8 x 10 inches
Inscribed in pencil "With Compliments, Julie H. Beers"



About the Artists

JULIE HART BEERS
(1835-1913)

MARION "MINNIE"
ROBERTSON BEERS BRUSH
(1853-1945)

Julie Hart Beers (1835-1913)

Julie Hart Beers was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to Scottish-born parents Marion Robertson and James Hart. In 1830, her parents came to the United States with her brothers and settled in Albany. Recognized as leaders in the American School of Art, William Hart (1823-1894) and James McDougal Hart (1828-1901) began their careers painting panel decorations for a coach-maker in Albany. It is possible that their father held a similar occupation. Census records for the year 1855 indicate the elder James Hart was employed as a painter.

While little is known of Beer's early life and education, she began her artistic training under the tutelage of her brother James. By the age of twenty, Beers had married George Beers, a printer from Albany County. The couple lived in Albany with her parents and her brother James. Their daughter Marion Robertson Beers was born in Albany in 1854. A second daughter, Katherine S. Beers, was born two years later. In 1855, James moved to New York City where he established a studio in the Dodworth building. William arrived in the city two years prior and was an associate member of the National Academy of Design. Beers soon followed suit.

Sadly, after just four years of marriage Beers's husband passed away. A widow with two young daughters to raise, Beers continued to take up her brush. In the 1860's, she began exhibiting with the Brooklyn Art Association. When she exhibited *A View near Bethel, Maine* in 1868 the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* stated, "Mrs. Beers is a careful artist and all her pictures will bear critical inspection and the painting in question is no exception to the rule." To help make ends meet, Beers took women on summer sketching trips. During the summer of 1871, Beers took 6 young lady artists sketching in Elizabethtown, a small hamlet in the foothills of the Adirondacks. There they sketched along the banks of the Bouquet River. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* noted that, "Some of the lady artists, under the accomplished direction of Mrs. Beers, are working hard and have made fine progress."

In 1875, Beers spent the summer sketching in Dorset, Vermont. Her daughter Marion, an artist in her own right, worked on studies of wildflowers and ferns. Marion R. Beers (also known as Minnie) was an oil painter and watercolorist. She exhibited with the Brooklyn Art Association and the American Watercolor Society. Beers exhibited with her daughter at the Brooklyn Art Association (1874), at the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition (1875) and the Inter-State Industrial Exposition of Chicago (1877). While less is known of Katherine S. Beers (also known as Kitty), she is listed as an artist in a U.S. census record from 1880.

In 1876, Beers married a second time. Her husband Dr. Peter Tertius Kempson was a journalist and an editor of the New York Insurance Times. An Englishman, he served as reeve of Fort Erie, Canada before coming to the United States in 1873. Kempson resided in Metchuchen, New Jersey where he was joined by Beers and her daughters Marion and Katherine. Following her marriage Beers continued to paint and exhibit under the name Julie Kempson.

During her lifetime, Beers contributed regularly to exhibitions at the Brooklyn Art Association, and the National Academy of Design. She also exhibited with the Artist's Fund Society, the Palette Club, the Lotus Club and the Boston Athenaeum, among others.

Julie Hart Beers (Kempson) died in 1913. She was 79 years old.

Marion Robertson Beers Brush (1853-1945)

Marion "Minnie" Beers was born in Albany, New York to Julie Hart Beers and George Washington Beers, a printer. Her maternal uncles, William Hart (1823-1894) and James McDougal Hart (1828-1901), were prominent members of the Hudson River School. Born in Scotland, the Hart brothers immigrated to the United States with their parents while still young boys. They began their careers painting panel decorations for a coach-maker in Albany before becoming professional landscape painters, and leaders in the first American art movement. Their younger sister Julie, Brush's mother, was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. With the encouragement and artistic tutelage of her brothers, Beers became one of the first women to gain recognition as a professional landscape artist.

Like her mother before her, Brush's natural artistic talent was nurtured by her family members. She lost her father while still a toddler. Her mother, widowed with two daughters to raise, continued to paint, and exhibited regularly with the Brooklyn Art Association. To help make ends meet, she took women on summer sketching trips in New York and New England often with her daughters in tow. In 1875, Beers and Brush spent the summer sketching together in Dorset, Vermont. Brush worked on studies of wildflowers and ferns.

In her early twenties, Brush married Dr. Edward F. Brush. An Irish immigrant, Dr. Brush came to the United States as a teenager. He served in the Union army during the Civil War and later became the first elected Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon, New York, serving four terms.

An oil painter and watercolorist, Brush exhibited with the Brooklyn Art Association and the American Watercolor Society. She exhibited with many prominent artists of the day, including her mother, at the Brooklyn Art Association (1874), at the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition (1875) and the Inter-State Industrial Exposition of Chicago (1877).

Marion "Minnie" Robertson Beers Brush (1853-1945) died in Mount Vernon, New York in 1945.

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