



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

PAUL CORNOYER (1864-1923)

Early Evening, Empire Park, New York, c. 1910

Oil on canvas

18 x 24 inches

Signed lower left

Paul Cornoyer was famous for his artful vignettes of New York City and his art instruction. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he first trained at the nearby School of Fine Arts in 1881. The artist studied subsequently abroad in Paris at the Académie Julian with Jules Lefebvre, Louis Blanc and Benjamin Constant in 1889. He remained active in Paris until 1894, when he returned to St. Louis. During the mid-nineties, Cornoyer was honored with a gold medal from the American Art Association and with a gold medal from the St. Louis Association of Painters and Sculptors.

A collector of his paintings, William Merritt Chase, noted the artist's strength in painting urban subjects and encouraged him to move to New York City.¹ Prompted by Chase's advice, relocated to Manhattan in 1899 where he passionately painted its most appealing imagery and gave art instruction at the Mechanics Institute. Cornoyer exhibited widely at the National Academy of Design, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Boston Art Club and the Corcoran Gallery. His paintings are now held in the collections of the St. Louis Art Museum, the Butler Institute of American Art, the Newark Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery and other important collections.

¹ Gerds, William H., *Art Across America: The Plains States and the West* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1990) 53.