



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

Wilson Irvine (1869 - 1936)

Born in Byron, Illinois, Wilson Irvine began his artistic education with Liberty Walkup, the inventor of the airbrush. In 1893, he was employed by the Chicago Portrait Company and took classes at the Art Institute of Chicago between 1895 and 1903. He began exhibiting at the Institute in 1900 and served as one of the founding members of Chicago's Palette and Chisel Club and the Cliff Dwellers.

He spent the summer of 1914 in Connecticut and became associated with the Old Lyme Art Colony, consisting of great American Impressionists such as Childe Hassam and J. Alden Weir. In 1918, he purchased a home and moved to Connecticut permanently, but maintained close ties to the Midwest.

In 1926, he was elected an associate of the National Academy of Design. Shortly thereafter, he first exhibited his "prismatic paintings," conceived by looking at his subject through a prism, at Grand Central Art Galleries in 1930. Around that same time, he also produced monotypes called "aqua prints," which introduced naturalistic forms to marbled paper. Despite these experiments, however, Irvine was always most devoted to landscape painting, and Old Lyme provided the perfect opportunity for him to combine his technical skill with his passion for *plein air* painting.