



HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

AGNES LOUISE SYMMERS (1882 – 1941)

Agnes Louise Symmers [née Shuey], born in 1882 in University, Virginia, is best known as a landscape painter. Though details on her personal life and artistic career are scarce, her artistic training and exhibition records indicate that she was well-schooled and respected painter with a strong artistic output during the 1920s and early 1930s.

Symmers received her training at the Art Students League in New York, where she studied under the prominent Ashcan School painter, Robert Henri, and Frank Vincent DuMond, an illustrator and painter known for his landscapes and portraits in the Impressionist style. By 1923, Symmers was living with her husband, James K. Symmers, in Rye, located just outside New York City in Westchester County.

Symmers was a member of the National Arts Club in New York City, as well as the Pen and Brush Club of New York, and the Southern States Art League. She exhibited frequently at the Society of Independent Artists (1923-24, 1926-28, 1931, 1940-41), and at the Salons of America (1925, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1934). In 1932, Symmers also held a solo exhibition at the Montross Gallery in New York City, which represented the leading American artists of the time.

Though Symmers is best known for her vibrantly-colored Impressionist style landscapes, she was also an intellectual who cultivated an interest in writing. In 1922, she translated the non-fiction text *Letters of Javanese Princess*, which chronicles the life of a young Indonesian woman, from the original Dutch. In 1936, Symmers authored a pamphlet entitled *Beyond the Serpentine Wall*.

While the artist spent her most prolific years in New York, she lived in the Charlottesville, Virginia area for the majority of her life.