

Beal, Reynolds, 1867- 1951

Summer Sail

unsigned

oil on panel

7" x 9"

Reynolds Beal was one of America's finest Impressionists. Often called "The American Van Gogh," because of his luscious thick avenues of paint and "the American Chagall" because of his playful subjects, Beal painted with a distinctive style that was entirely his own.

Beal was born in New York City in 1867, and he showed artistic ability from an early age. He first studied naval architecture at Cornell University, but began to study painting seriously at William Merritt Chase's Shinnecock Summer School on Long Island in the 1890s. He then went to Europe to study with Henry Ward Ranger.

He utilized both Impressionist and Tonalist techniques. As he got older, his work became more complex and vibrant with a mosaic of brush strokes, like Summer Sail. The painting has immense movement. The spontaneous brush strokes mimic the sea breezes that drive the sailboats across the water, and the Tonalist palette bursts with the effects of sunlight. These qualities are the reasons for his prominence as an East Coast marine and landscape painter.

Beal died in 1951, yet his major artistic period falls between 1910 and 1920. After the late 1920s, illness prevented Beal from painting as often as he would have liked, and by 1940 he had nearly stopped painting.

Provenance: From the trade to gallery.

Exhibitions:

American Watercolor Society

Art Institute of Chicago

Boston Art Club

Corcoran Gallery

Lotos Club

National Academy of Design

North Shore Art Association

Panama Pacific Exhibition of 1915

Paris Salon

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Rockport Art Association

Salmagundi Club

Society of Independent Artists

Vose Galleries, Boston

Whitney Museum of American Art

Bibliography:

Askart.com