

McManus, James Goodwin, (1882 - 1958)

Fields of Lyme

Signed "James Goodwin McManus" lower right
oil on board
12" x 16"

James Goodwin McManus was a noted American artist and is still considered one of the deans of Connecticut art. His portraits were done in a classic style while his landscapes were done in a more fluid impressionist style.

McManus was born in Hartford in 1882 to C. James McManus, DDS and Eliza (Goodwin) McManus, a descendant of Ozias Goodwin, one of the original founders of the city. At sixteen, James Goodwin McManus started studying drawing under Charles Noel Flagg at the artist's studio in Hartford. McManus also trained under Robert B. Brandegee, Walter Griffin, William Gedney Bunce and Montague Flagg.

Having developed into an accomplished artist, McManus began to teach at Hartford Public High School. Later, after helping to found the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, he taught there and at the Connecticut Art Students League as well. Along the way, he spent summers at art colonies in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and at Old Lyme, Connecticut, the latter being where he vacationed after 1921. McManus often taught at Guy Wiggins Art School at Hamburg Cove in Lyme and later in Essex after Wiggins moved it there in 1937.

James Goodwin McManus never married and eventually moved to West Hartford, but still spent the warmer months in Old Lyme. *Fields of Lyme* illustrates the intimacy of the verdant landscape against a nearly cloudless summer sky with vigorous brushwork. The sketchy quality contrasts brilliantly with the sheer symmetrical balance of the composition. Threads of color interweave with one another to create a tightly woven and unified work of art; each mass of color represents an instantaneous effect of life and shade over the landscape.

McManus was a member of the Hartford Salmagundians, the Salmagundi Club of New York, the Lyme Artists Association, and the New Haven Paint and Clay Club.

Provenance: from private collection to gallery.

Exhibitions:

Lyme Art Association
National Academy of Design-Exhibited
Paint and Clay Club-Exhibit
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts-Exhibited
Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford

Bibliography:

Askart.com