

Nelson, George Laurence, 1887 - 1978

Lily and Blue Lace

Signed "G.L. Nelson" lower right, signed, titled and dated "1938" on verso
oil on board
9 1/2" x 13 1/2"

George Laurence Nelson, born in New Rochelle, New York, was a prolific painter of portraits, landscapes, and still lifes such as *Lily and Blue Lace*. He is known for his use of color, having rejected the somber palettes of his previous instructors from the Beaux Arts and Academie Julian. His chosen shades may very well have also been influenced by the palettes of his Impressionist contemporaries, but he retained a dependency on strictly outlined forms. He formed a creative, personal style by successfully combining these two elements.

Nelson's still life, *Lily and Blue Lace* features a charming bouquet of cut flowers situated on a table beside a smaller, simpler bouquet, a necklace, and a framed black and white photo of a young woman. The lily and blue lace at the nucleus of the composition are uniformly illuminated and positioned to be revealed fully to the viewer and their collage-like appearance is enhanced by the strict color contrast. Created in 1938, it coincides with a period in which both American and international artists, such as Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and Arthur B. Carles (1882-1952), were abandoning tradition and embracing experimentation in regards to still-life painting. The objects that compose the scene, although painted with great care and easily identifiable, are not particularly naturalistic and have an imaginative or perhaps symbolic quality.

Nelson lived a good part of his life in Kent, Connecticut, maintaining a studio there throughout his career. He left his studio and works to the Kent Art Association after his death in 1978.

Provenance: From a private collection in New York to the gallery.

Exhibitions:

American Watercolor Society
Art Institute of Chicago
Boston Art Club
Corcoran Gallery
Detroit Institute of Arts
Grand Central Art Galleries
National Academy of Design
National Arts Club
Paris Salon
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Salmagundi Club
Salons of America
Society of Independent Artists
Vose Galleries, Boston

Bibliography:

Askart.com