

Nelson, George Laurence, 1887 - 1978

Orchid, Freesia, and Rose

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-lives such as *Orchid, Freesia, and Rose*. 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, *Orchid, Freesia, and Rose* features two charming bouquets and a pink seashell situated on a surface over which has been draped a cream-colored cloth. The soft palette, warm lighting, and balanced proportions of the scene create a very harmonious and soothing picture. These flowers have been captured in their prime and immortalized, but not idealized. The softness of the edges contrast pleasantly with the dense planes of color used to illustrate this meticulously designed artwork. 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 convention and embracing experimentation in regards to still-life painting. However, Nelson firmly grasps the more traditional and representational style of a timeless subject matter.

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