

(Edward) Gregory Smith (1880 - 1961)

Brook in Spring, circa 1920

signed lower right

oil on canvas

16" x 20"

Edward Gregory Smith, at thirty years old, was one of the younger artists who came to Old Lyme, Connecticut while the summer art colony was at its peak. It was his friend and fellow painter, Will Howe Foote (1874-1965), who encouraged Smith to move from his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan to Old Lyme in 1910.

Smith admired a number of the artists associated with the colony, particularly Childe Hassam (1859-1935) and Willard Metcalf (1858-1925). Hassam's influence is especially evident in *Brook in Spring* in the vigorous brushwork and uncomplicated subject matter, and the decorative arrangement of flattened forms is evocative of Metcalf's style during his intermittent visits to Old Lyme in the first decade of the twentieth century. The light-infused composition consists of bright hues used to render the lush springtime flora and the flowing brook. The pleasantly interwoven strokes of color offer the viewer a wealth of information in a shallow space, and the effect is subtly decorative.

Smith was awarded several of the most prestigious exhibition prizes at the Lyme Art Association, including the W.S. Eaton Purchase Prize, the Museum Purchase Prize, the Mr. and Mrs. William O. Goodwin Prize, and the Woodhull Adams Memorial Prize. Smith's work is generally among the rarest of the Old Lyme Art Colony.

Provenance: From the trade to the gallery.

Bibliography:

Cooley Gallery archives.