

Vezin, Charles, 1858 - 1942

A Japanese Garden

Signed "C. Vezin" lower right
oil on board
8" x 10"

Charles Vezin (1858-1942) was born in Philadelphia and spent the earlier part of his life traveling and studying between Pennsylvania and Berlin, where his grandparents lived. Vezin finished his education studying engineering in Freiburg, Germany but returned to the United States with a passion for commerce. He began as a traveling salesman before partnering in 1895 with Ralph P. Hinchman and J. W. White to found Hinchman, Vezin & Company in New York.

Vezin enrolled at the Art Students League in the latter part of the 1890s, where he studied with William Merritt Chase (1849-1916) and Frank Vincent DuMond (1865-1951). Vezin connected best with DuMond and followed him to Old Lyme in 1900, the first year artists from New York visit the region in significant numbers. Like so many of the artists in residence at the Florence Griswold mansion, Vezin found himself captivated by the landscape of Lyme and Old Lyme, and purchased for himself and his wife a large stretch of farmland on Grassy Hill near where Frank DuMond and his wife, the artist Helen Savier DuMond (1872-1968), also maintained a home. As Vezin's talents and reputation increased, he followed DuMond up through the ranks at the Art Students League, ultimately serving as league president in 1911. Prominent roles and exhibitions followed, including the presidency of the Salmagundi Club in 1914 and numerous showings at the National Academy of Design, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Century Club, the Salmagundi Club, and more.

Vezin essentially painted three types of pictures – bright, nearly pastel scenes of the Manhattan skyline and harbor, warm winter scenes of the Hudson River with the Palisades almost always illuminated by reflected pink sunlight, and more deeply colored and vernal views of Old Lyme. He began to paint *en plein air* in Old Lyme, and the heightened palette and loose brushwork of the Impressionist movement soon became embedded in his landscapes and other paintings such as *A Japanese Garden*. The work is dense with detail and a variety of color values, but the space recesses appropriately to accommodate all of the compositional elements in a highly competent manner.

Provenance: From a private collection in Connecticut to the gallery.

Exhibitions:

Art Institute of Chicago
Brooklyn Society of Artists
Corcoran Gallery
Hudson Valley Art Association
Lyme Art Association
National Academy of Design
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Salmagundi Club
Society of Independent Artists
Society of Washington Artists, DC

Bibliography:

Joseph F. Newman, *Charles Vezin: Paint and Purpose*, Cooley Gallery Exhibition Catalog (April 19-May 26, 2007).

