

Charles Vezin (1858 - 1942)

March's Mirror

signed, C Vezin, lower left

oil on canvas

18" x 24"

March's Mirror is a warm winter scene of the Hudson River with the Palisades illuminated by the reflected pink sunlight. Paintings such as this one were prominent in Charles Vezin's body of work, alongside bright, nearly pastel scenes of the Manhattan skyline and harbor, and more deeply colored and vernal views of Old Lyme.

Among all the artists of the Lyme Art Colony, Vezin possessed the strongest ties to the practical world. Born in Philadelphia, Vezin first worked as a traveling salesman before founding the drygoods firm of Hinchman, Veste & Co. in 1895. At age 41, having decided to apply his considerable industry to art, he joined the Art Students League in New York 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 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.

Provenance: From the artist's family to the gallery.

Bibliography:

The Cooley Gallery archives.