Childe Hassam



1859-1935 | AMERICAN

Nymph Bathing



onsidered by many to be America's foremost Impressionist painter, Childe Hassam composed his tranquil and intimate oil, Nymph Bathing, in the early years of the 20th century. The creation of the artwork aligns with a period of Hassam's career where the artist's palette was transforming, matching ever closer with the pale and pastel hues of French Impressionists like Claude Monet. Even the subject—a nude nymph—represents a greater alignment with the Impressionist ideals of showing nature at its best. With Hassam's signature brushwork and attention to color, this composition is a dream-like vision, serene and sensuous.

Hassam's mastery extends beyond his renowned landscape expertise in this work, demonstrating his exceptional command of the female form. The composition achieves remarkable balance through careful placement: the nude figure is positioned to the right, captured in the intimate moment of entering a pond. The subject's classical contrapposto stance reveals graceful, curving lines that harmonize with the water's reflective surface. These elegant elements are counterbalanced by the robust presence of a towering tree, its spreading canopy anchoring the left side of the canvas. The interplay between the figure's luminous skin tones and the water's ethereal qualities creates a sophisticated dialogue of light across the composition.

Born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, Childe Hassam began his artistic career as a freelance illustrator, working for national publications such as *Harper's Weekly*, *Scribner's Monthly* and *The Century*. His first solo exhibition of watercolors took place in Boston in 1883, and he quickly catapulted onto the international scene, winning a bronze medal at the Exposition

Universelle in Paris in 1889. The year before the present work was created, he received the Webb Prize from the Society of American Artists for another landscape painted at Gloucester. Hassam would receive numerous other awards throughout his career, most notably the Gold Medal for Distinguished Services to Fine Art from the American Dealers Association.

Hassam depicted a way of life characteristic of both American and French society, and his work elucidates a critical chapter in American art history. Today, his work resides in the Oval Office of the White House and in numerous important museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, among many others.





Childe Hassam

1859-1935 | American

Nymph Bathing, 1904 Oil on board

Signed and dated "Childe Hassam 1904" (lower left)

Canvas: 6" high x 5" wide | 15.24 x 12.70 cm Frame: 16 $^{1}/_{4}$ " high x 15" wide x 1 $^{3}/_{4}$ " deep | 41.28 x 38.10 x 4.45 cm

This painting will be included in Stuart Feld and Kathleen Burnside's forthcoming catalogue raisonné of the artist's work.

PROVENANCE

Colonel C.E.S. Wood, Rutland Oregon & Los Gatos, CA (possibly a gift from the artist)

Hirschl & Adler Gallery, New York, mid-1980s

Sale, Sotheby's, Important American Paintings, May 1990, Lot 163

Private Collection, New York, acquired from the above

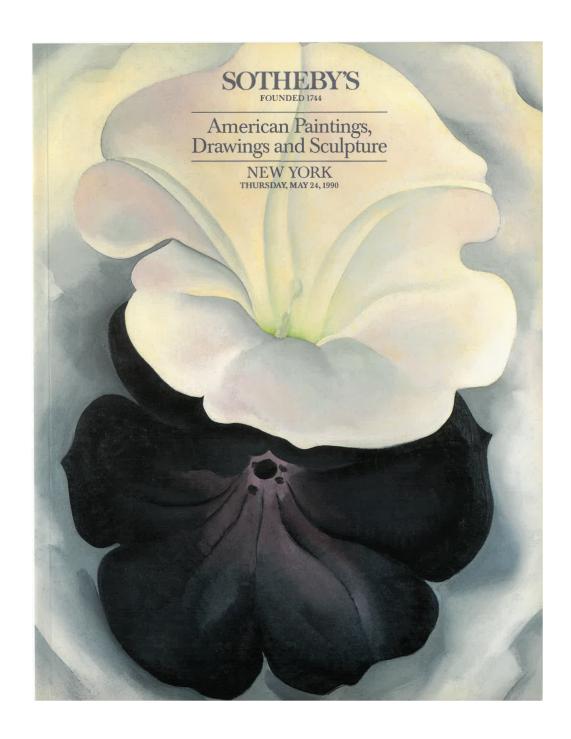
EXHIBITED

San Francisco, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, 1926-27, no. 80

San Francisco Art Museum, n.d.

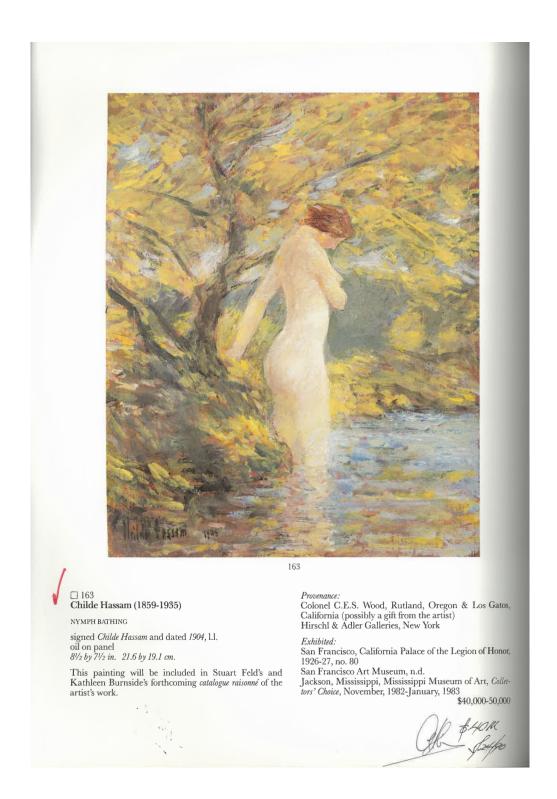
Jackson, Mississippi, Mississippi Museum of Art, *Collectors' Choice*, November 1982-January 1983





Sale, Sotheby's, Important American Paintings, May 1990, Lot 163





Sale, Sotheby's, Important American Paintings, May 1990, Lot 163





The Childe Hassam Catalogue Raisonne Stuart P. Feld Kathleen M. Burnside Janet Altic Flint

May 25, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

I am assisting Stuart P. Feld and Kathleen Burnside in the compilation of the catalogue raisonne, or complete record, of the work of the American impressionist Childe Hassam. Mr. Feld and Ms. Burnside have been at work on this project for over ten years and to date close to three thousand works have been catalogued for inclusion in what we hope will be the definitive text on the artist. We are now entering the final stages of our research and plan to go to press with our multi-volume text within the coming two to three years.

Mr. Peter Rathbone of Sotheby's has kindly agreed to forward this letter to you as the purchaser of the Hassam painting titled Nymph Bathing (oil on panel, 8 $1/2 \times 7$ 1/2 in., signed and dated 1904). This was lot 163 in the sale held on May 24, 1990. I would be most grateful if you would be in contact and let me know how I may list ownership of the painting. I should mention that our records are confidential and should you prefer to remain anonymous, we will be happy to simply list the work as belonging to a "private collection."

With many thanks for your assistance with our Hassam research, I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Groel

/jag

Letter affirming inclusion in Stuart Feld and Kathleen Burnside's forthcoming catalogue raisonné of the artist's work





Reverse of painting showing exhibition labels



AUCTION COMPARABLES



Childe Hassam
The Peony Girl
oil on canvas
Height 32.4 x Width 24.8 cm.
Height 12.756 x Width 9.764 in.
1889

06 November 2023 over 1 year ago Bonhams New York

Barbara Walters: American Icon 6 November | New York - [Lot 00131]

est. 1,000,000 - 1,500,000 USD

622,800 USD (P)



Childe Hassam

Woman with a parasol in park
oil on panel
Height 30.48 x Width 20.32 cm.
Height 12 x Width 8 in.
1891

26 May 2010 over 14 years ago Bonhams New York

American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture - [Lot 00016]

est. 400,000 - 600,000 USD

512,000 USD (P)



Childe Hassam
THE LADY WITH YELLOW
ROSES

oil on canvas Height 33 x Width 24.8 cm. Height 12.992 x Width 9.764 in. 1895–1896

21 November 2016 over 8 years ago Sotheby's New York

American Art – [Lot 00100]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 USD

396,500 USD (P)

↑ 13% est



Childe Hassam
Rainy Day, Boston
oil on panel
Height 14.9 x Width 20.3 cm.
Height 5.866 x Width 7.992 in.

09 May 2018 almost 7 years ago Christie's New York

The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller: Art of the Americas, Evening Sale – [Lot 00439]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 USD

372,500 USD (P)

↑6% est



Childe Hassam
Paris street scene
oil on panel
Height 15.3 x Width 20.4 cm.

Height 6.024 x Width 8.031 in.

18 May 2005 almost 20 years ago Sotheby's New York

American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture - [Lot 00033]

est. 80,000 - 120,000 USD

180,000 USD (P)

↑ 50% est



Quai du Louvre
watercolor, gouache and pencil on paper
Height 21.6 x Width 20.3 cm.
Height 8.504 x Width 7.992 in.
1889

21 October 2022 over 2 years ago Christie's New York

The Ann & Gordon Getty Collection: Volume 2 | Old Master, 19th and 20th Century Paintings, Day Sale – [Lot 00139]

est. 70,000 - 100,000 USD

157,500 USD (P)

↑ 57% est



Childe Hassam
The New Moon
oil on panel
Height 12.7 x Width 15.9 cm.
Height 5 x Width 6.26 in.
1907

Childe Hassam

22 November 2016 over 8 years ago Christie's New York

American Paintings - [Lot 00094]

est. 150,000 - 250,000 USD

150,000 USD (P)



Childe Hassam
Lady in a Garden
oil on canvas
Height 25.4 x Width 20.3 cm.
Height 10 x Width 7.992 in.
1900

20 November 2018 over 6 years ago Christie's Online

American Art Online - [Lot 00178]

est. 80,000 - 120,000 USD

137,500 USD (P)

↑ 15% est



Childe Hassam

Evening (Isles of Shoals)

oil on board Height 13 x Width 23.2 cm. Height 5.118 x Width 9.134 in. 1907 **06 November 2023** over 1 year ago Bonhams New York

Barbara Walters: American Icon 6 November | New York - [Lot 00132]

est. 60,000 - 80,000 USD

114,800 USD (P)

↑ 44% est



Childe Hassam
Paris in winter
oil on board
Height 14.6 x Width 8.9 cm.
Height 5.748 x Width 3.504 in.

18 May 2011 almost 14 years ago

Christie's New York

Important American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture – [Lot 00056]

est. 70,000 - 100,000 USD

110,500 USD (P)

↑ 10% est



Childe Hassam
Beach at Newport
oil on panel
Height 20.6 x Width 14 cm.
Height 8.11 x Width 5.512 in.

23 January 2025 about 1 month ago Christie's New York

19th Century American and Western Art – [Lot 00380]

est. 50,000 - 70,000 USD

107,100 USD (P)

↑ 53% est

Childe Hassam | Study for Bathers

1902-03

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: $8^{5/8}$ x $6^{3/4}$ inches | 21.14 x 17.14 cm





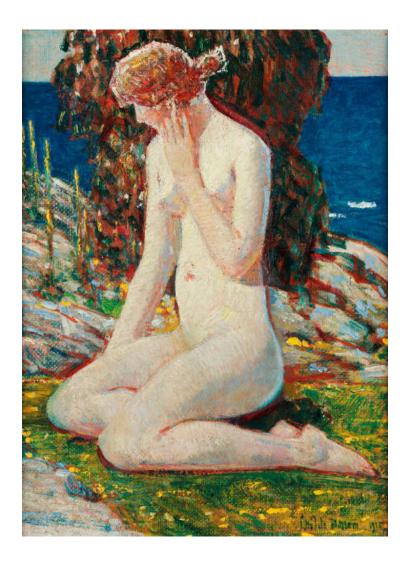
Portland Art Museum Portland, OR, United States

Childe Hassam | *The Nude*

1915

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 18 x 14 inches | 45.7 x 35.6 cm





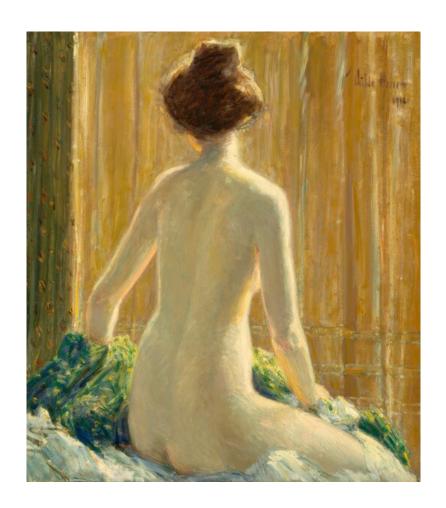
Oklahoma City Museum of Art Oklahoma City, OK, United States

Childe Hassam | Nude Seated

1912

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 24 x 22 inches | 61 x 55.9 cm



National Gallery of Art

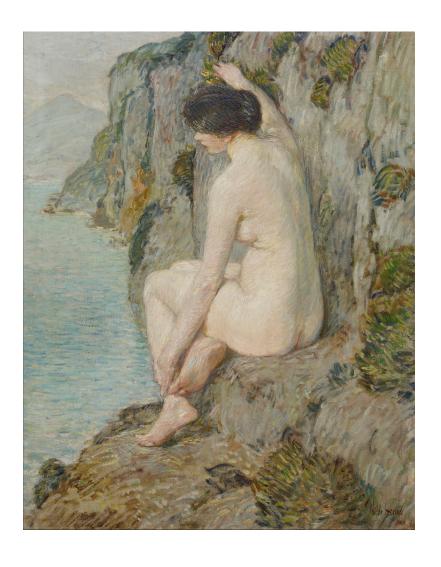
National Gallery of Art Washington, D.C., United States

Childe Hassam | *The Lorelei*

1904

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: $25^{1/8}$ x $21^{1/16}$ inches | 63.8 x 53.5 cm



|THE WALTERS | | ART MUSEUM | The Walters Art Museum Baltimore, MD, United States

