

GODDARD WOMEN 1922

GEORGIA GRACE WATSON GODDARD (1866-1935), ELEANOR GRACE GODDARD DANIELS (1889-1981), ELEANOR DANIELS BRONSON HODGE (b. 1917), 1922

Mary Fairchild Low (1858-1946)

Oil on canvas

58 x 48"; 147.3 x 121.9 cm.

Hewes Number: 60

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Low studied at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, and then in Paris with Carolus-Duran and at the Academy Julian with Bouguereau, Lefebvre, and T. Robert Fleury.¹ Other American women at the Academy Julian included Ellen Day Hale, Gabrielle Clements, Dora Wheeler, Amanda Brewster, Rosina Emmet, Lydia Field Emmet, Cecilia Beaux and Elizabeth Nourse.² She married the artist Frederick MacMonnies in 1888 and lived in Paris and Giverny during the summers in the 1890s. They divorced and she married the artist Will H. Low in 1909; he had also studied with Carolus-Duran and the Ecoles de Beaux Arts.³ He was renowned as a mural and landscape painter. After their marriage, she lived in Bronxville, New York, just outside of New York City. Her figure paintings were exhibited in both France and the United States with great frequency.⁴

This was a substantial commission from a major artist and suggests the important status of the family within the city of Worcester. For example, in 1905, the parents of Harry W. Goddard celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in the brand new residence at 190 Salisbury Street. At the same event, Eleanor Goddard celebrated her sixteenth birthday. The detailed description of this event in the Worcester newspaper lists all of the guests, provides family background for

1 Lois M. Fink, *American Art at the Nineteenth-Century Paris Salons* (Washington: National Museum of American Art, 1990), pp. 368-9.

2 Kirsten Swinth, *Painting Professionals: Women Artists & the Development of Modern American Art, 1870-1930* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), p. 45.

3 Mantle Fielding, *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors & Engravers* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Apollo Books, 1986), p. 557.

4 Falk and Falk, *Who was Who in American Art*, pp. 2069-70.

the celebrants, describes the dresses of Mrs. Dorrance Goddard and her daughter-in-law, and notes the presence of golden flowers throughout the house. The size of the painting is large and it has always been displayed in what is now called the music lounge, a room that was added to the house, together with the elegant dining room below, at the time of the marriage of Eleanor Grace Goddard to F. Harold Daniels in .

This portrait depicts three generations of women of the Goddard and Daniels Family. The youngest of the three is Eleanor Daniels Bronson Hodge, painted when she was five years old. She is nestled against her grandmother as her mother stands in the background. To the right of her grandmother's head is a shadowy representation of another woman, perhaps recalling Marion Goddard, who died in 1918.