



GRANT WOOD (1891-1942)

The Young Artist

Signed lower right, "Grant Wood"

oil on panel

11 x 14 x 1 in. (20 1/4 x 23 1/2 x 4 in.)

27.94 x 35.56 x 2.54 cm (51.44 x 59.69 x 10.16 cm)

1926

45303

PROVENANCE:

Grant Wood Private Collection

Collection of his sister Nan Wood (American Gothic)

Collection of Nan Wood's Niece

Collection of Nan Wood's Grand Niece

EXHIBITION:

West Palm Beach, Florida, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, *Discovering Creativity: American Art Masters*, January 10 - March 17, 2024

LITERATURE:

James M. Dennis, *An Essay into Landscapes: The Art of Grant Wood*, Kansas State University, 1972, p. 87, illustrated p. 92

Painted by young Grant Wood shortly after the second of three European tours he took during the 1920s, *The Young Artist* extends the artist's interest in painting en plein air begun in northern France. The pointillism of Seurat appealed to Wood, and palette knife painting consumed him in 1925. Yet he had not yet traveled to Munich where, in 1928, he came under the influence of the Northern Renaissance painters, which sparked his interest in the compositional severity and detailed technique associated with his mature works. Painting quickly and decisively, Wood produced *The Young Artist* from a hilltop at Kenwood Park that overlooks the Cedar River Valley near Cedar Rapids, where he built a house for his sister, Nan.

Grant Wood was an American artist and leading figure of the Regionalist movement. Known for his smoothly rendered paintings of the American Midwest, his iconic work *American Gothic* (1930), has become one of the most recognizable paintings of the 20th century. The slightly unsettling work depicts a male and female farmer standing side-by-side before their Gothic Revival house. "Technique does not constitute art. Nor is it a vague, fuzzy romantic quality known as 'beauty,' remote from the realities of everyday life," he once explained. "It is the depth and intensity of an artist's experience that are the first importance in art." Born on February 13, 1891 in Anamosa, IA, Wood studied arts and craft at the Handicraft Guild School in Minneapolis, and went on to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1923, he travelled to Europe to study at the Académie Julian in Paris and produced several views of the city in an impressionistic style. During his time abroad, he became increasingly influenced by the delineated style of early German and Flemish artists, such as Jan van Eyck. Upon returning to the United States, Wood melded Northern Renaissance technique with the newfound embrace of his Midwestern heritage. Like other American Regionalists Thomas Hart Benton and John Steuart Curry, Wood would go on to paint cornfields,

farmers, and scenes from American history. The artist died on February 12, 1942 in Iowa City, IA.

(artnet.com)

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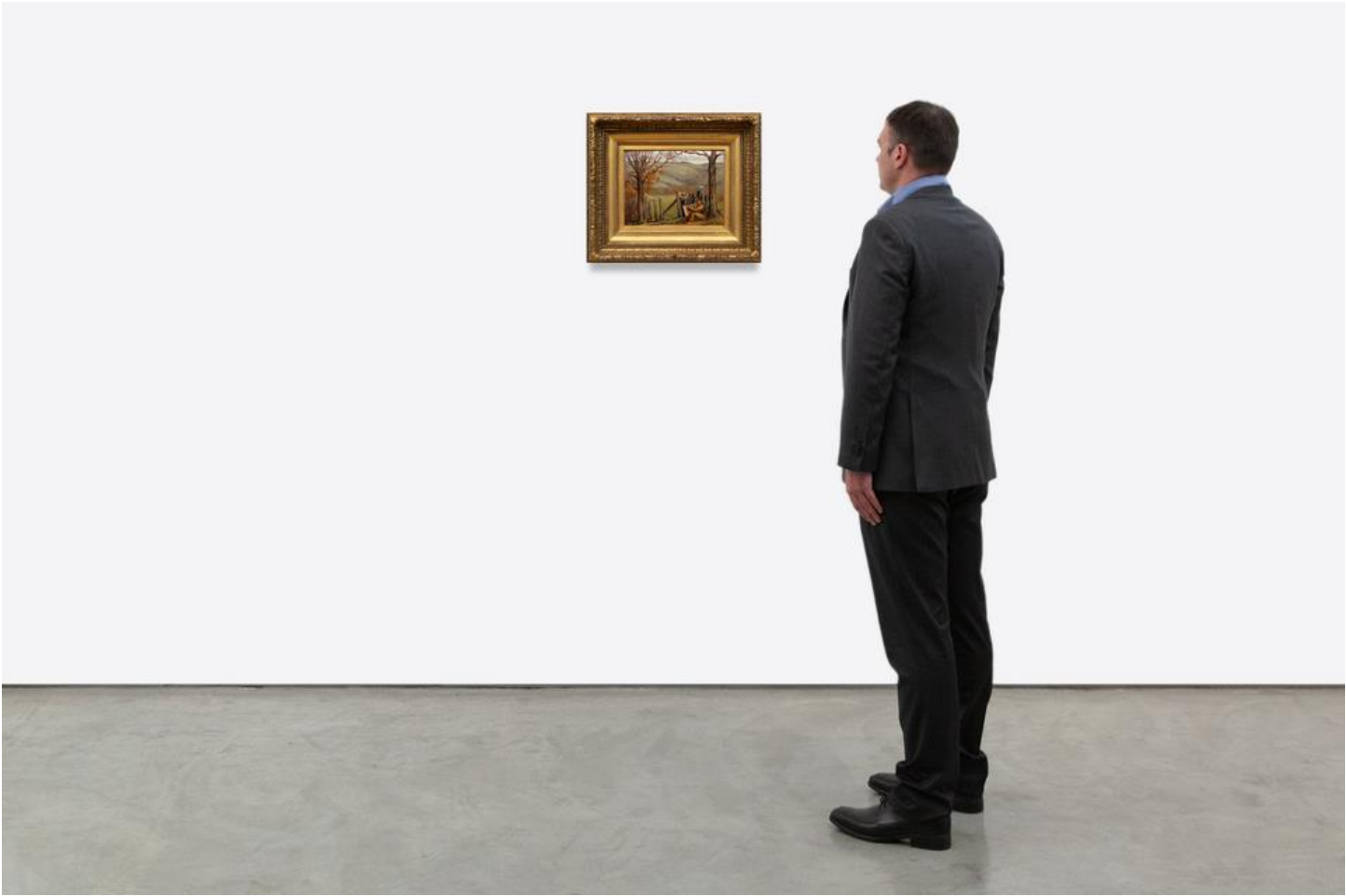














The Young Artist
Grant Wood.

Crane Wood
The Young Artist
1926, Oil on panel
11 x 14 inches

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