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Early California Masters: Paintings from the Katherine A. Norris Collection

American Legacy Fine Arts

Pasadena, CA

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■ American Legacy Fine Arts said it is honored to represent paintings on consignment from the Kathleen A. Norris Legacy Collection that demonstrate the mastery of plein air painting behind California Impressionism.

At the turn of the 20th century, academically trained artists were employed by railroads to paint the sweeping landscapes of the American West and U.S. Southwest to promote travel to the regions. The paintings produced during this period represent

a halcyon chapter in American art. Many were created en plein air or from plein air sketches, and many depict California in its developing years.

Most of the artists represented in this collection had works exhibited in the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco; those painters included Armin Carl Hansen, Maurice Braun, and Orrin White. And featured at the 1915 – 1916 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego were paintings by Anna Althea Hills, Jean Mannheim, and Jack Wilkinson Smith, all of whom received awards.

Additional artists in this stellar collection include Edgar Alwin Payne, who was hired by the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to paint scenes from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the California coast.



Edgar Alwin Payne [1883-1947], *High in the Sierras*
Oil on Canvas, 34 x 34 inches, c. 1921



Marion Ida Kavanagh Wachtel [1876-1954], *Untitled (Snow-capped Mountains)* – Grand Teton National Park
Oil on Panel, 15.75 x 19.25 inches, c. 1930s