



JOSEPH KLEITSCH (1882-1931)

Woman in Pink

Signed lower right, "Joseph Kleitsch"

oil on canvas

40 1/2 x 28 1/4 in. (49 1/4 x 37 x 3 3/4 in.)

c. 1915-1920

11490

PROVENANCE:

Mark Hoffman, Maxwell Gallery, San Francisco, California

Gerald Buck Collection

Private Collection, California

In this portrait by Joseph Kleitsch, the sitter is unknown, the painting titled only Woman in Pink. She is wearing a pink dress with white lace sleeves trailing down and into in her lap. She is holding a bit of the lace in her hands, almost absent-mindedly as she tilts her head toward the painter and gives him a small, amused smile. Her hair is swept into a modest updo, and the pink flushing her cheeks echoes the pink of her dress. Kleitsch's technique in rendering the lace is fascinating, as he seems to have only fully painted the pattern of the lace and the rest is made up of a few light and minimal strokes of the brush, lending it a sheer quality.

Joseph Kleitsch was born in Banad, Hungary, and began painting at the age of seven. He studied in Budapest, Munich and Paris and became an accomplished portraitist before immigrating to the United States, settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. Between 1905 and 1909, he lived and painted portraits of prominent businessmen in Denver, Colorado, as well as Mexican President Francisco Madero in Mexico City. He returned to the Midwest in 1914, exhibiting at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1920, he and his wife, Edna, settled in Laguna Beach, where the village scenery — people along the eucalyptus-lined streets, flowers blooming in alcove gardens, and the pensive tranquility of the beach and isolation of the locale — became fresh subjects for him to depict on canvas. Unlike many landscapists of the time, Kleitsch was prone to reflect the spirit of the coast through its people — figures. His townscapes have the precision of photographs.

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JOSEPH KLEITSCH







