



N.C. WYETH (1882-1945)

"Good-bye, Mistress Friendly-Soul!"

Signed lower left, "N C Wyeth"

oil on canvas

44 1/8 x 32 1/8 in.

112.08 x 81.6 cm

1914

14375

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, by descent

Clare McKinney Murphy, Dallas, Texas

Collection of Frank Hines, Chicago

LITERATURE:

Douglas Allen and Douglas Allen, Jr., N. C. Wyeth, *The Collected Paintings, Illustrations and Murals* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1972), p. 208

Christine B. Podmaniczky, N. C. Wyeth, *A Catalogue Raisonné of Paintings* (London: Scala, 2008), I.526, p. 293

Initially used as a frontispiece illustration for the 1914 novel, "The Witch," by Mary Johnston, Wyeth's painting presents a poignant scene of friendship and understanding between a grieving, independent woman and a generous, misunderstood doctor. Although the two hardly know each other, they have a shared understanding of and reverence for what is good. While the rest of the town searches for the devil in all things, these two choose kindness and light. Here, they take a moment to appreciate the lives they have led and the good they have done. Wyeth's illustration depicts hope and expectation of good despite the perils and sorrows of human life.

In addition to illustrating more than 100 books, including adventure classics like *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *The Last of the Mohicans*, Wyeth was also a highly regarded muralist, receiving numerous commissions for prestigious corporate and government buildings throughout the United States. Wyeth's style, honed by early work at the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Scribner's*, demonstrates his keen awareness of the revealing gesture, allowing readers to instantly grasp the essence of a scene.

Among the most noteworthy illustrators this country has ever produced, Wyeth is also the patriarch of one of America's most esteemed artistic dynasties. His son Andrew and grandson Jamie rank among the most respected artists of their generations, heavily influenced by other artists in the extended Wyeth family. N.C. Wyeth, in addition to illustrating more than 100 books, including adventure classics like *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *The Last of the Mohicans*, was also a highly regarded muralist, receiving numerous commissions for prestigious corporate and government buildings throughout the United States.

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and events from a child's point of view, and is particularly known for dramatizing characters by the use of long shadow, a technique that is said to have influenced the epic moviemaking style of the 1940s. In addition to providing supplementary drama and excitement to the written word, Wyeth's works have become classics in and of themselves.

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