CHARLES HERBERT WOODBURY
Beach Scene with Umbrella
Signed lower left, "Charles H. Woodbury '14"
oil on board
12 x 17 in. (18 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 2 1/4 in.)
1914

28831

PROVENANCE:
Private Collection, Santa Barbara, California

Charles Woodbury remains among the most influential artists to work in Ogunquit, Maine and in Boston. He sold his first oil painting when he was 15 and at age 17 in 1884, was the youngest person ever elected to the Boston Art Club.

He maintained a strong and consistent vision in his more than fifty years of professional life and became a master of compositions of the coast and sea. Woodbury's many on-the-spot sketches and etchings produce a sense of motion through quick, sure-handed strokes. Seeing and understanding movement was fundamental to his art and teaching, and is reflected in his own maxim: "Paint in verbs, not nouns." In the words of his son David, Woodbury "...painted what he saw, satisfied that what he saw was really there, all in proper relationship, checked and rechecked by endless reference to the real world".

In his later years he spent his winters in the Caribbean sailing from island to island painting watercolor studies of the beaches and town backed by dramatic mountains and clouds. Over a large part of his career he made some of the most expressive etchings of any American artist of his time, completing more than 500 plates and teaching many younger artists to express themselves in this medium. He died on January 21, 1940 in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

(Askart)

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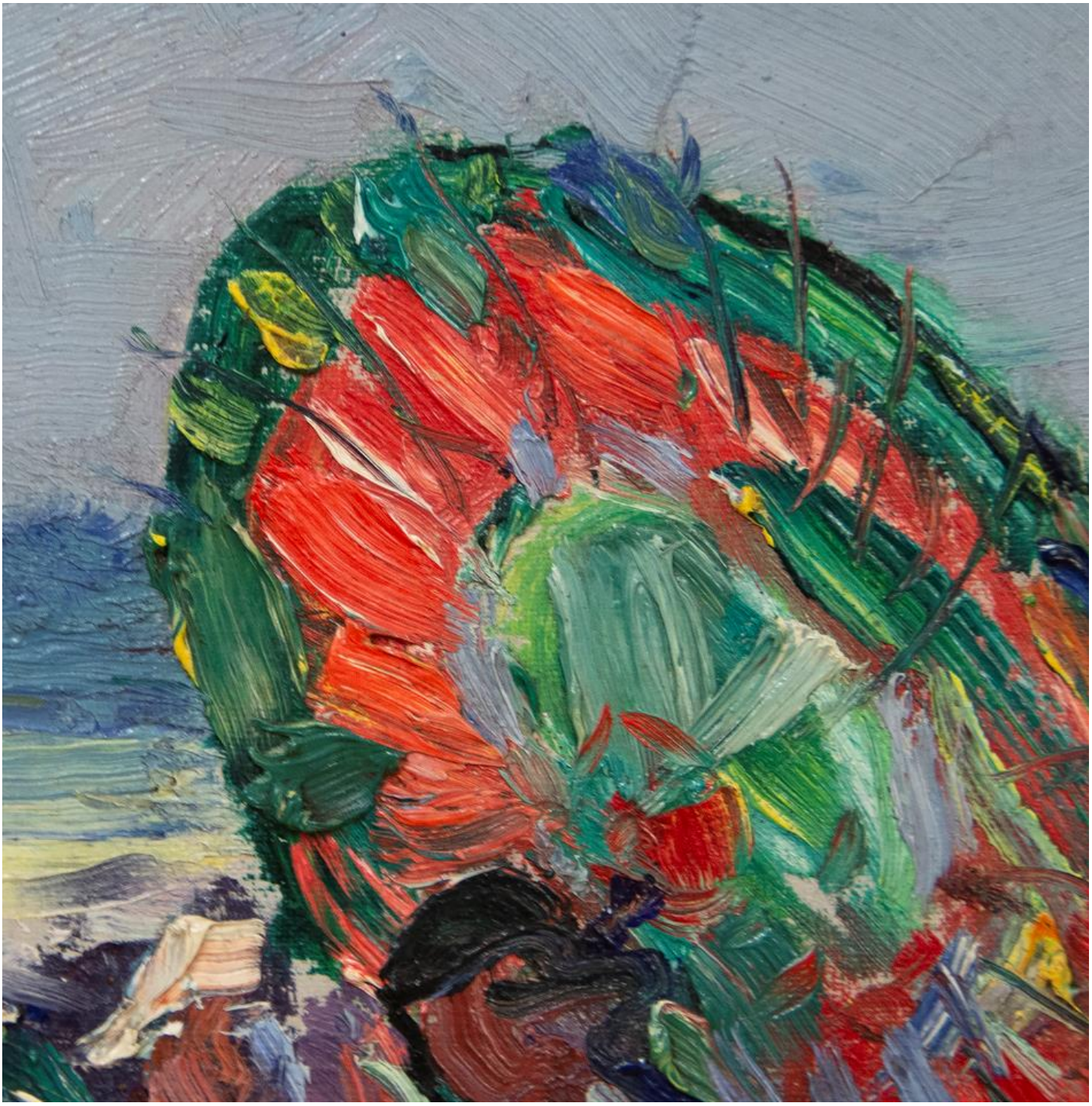

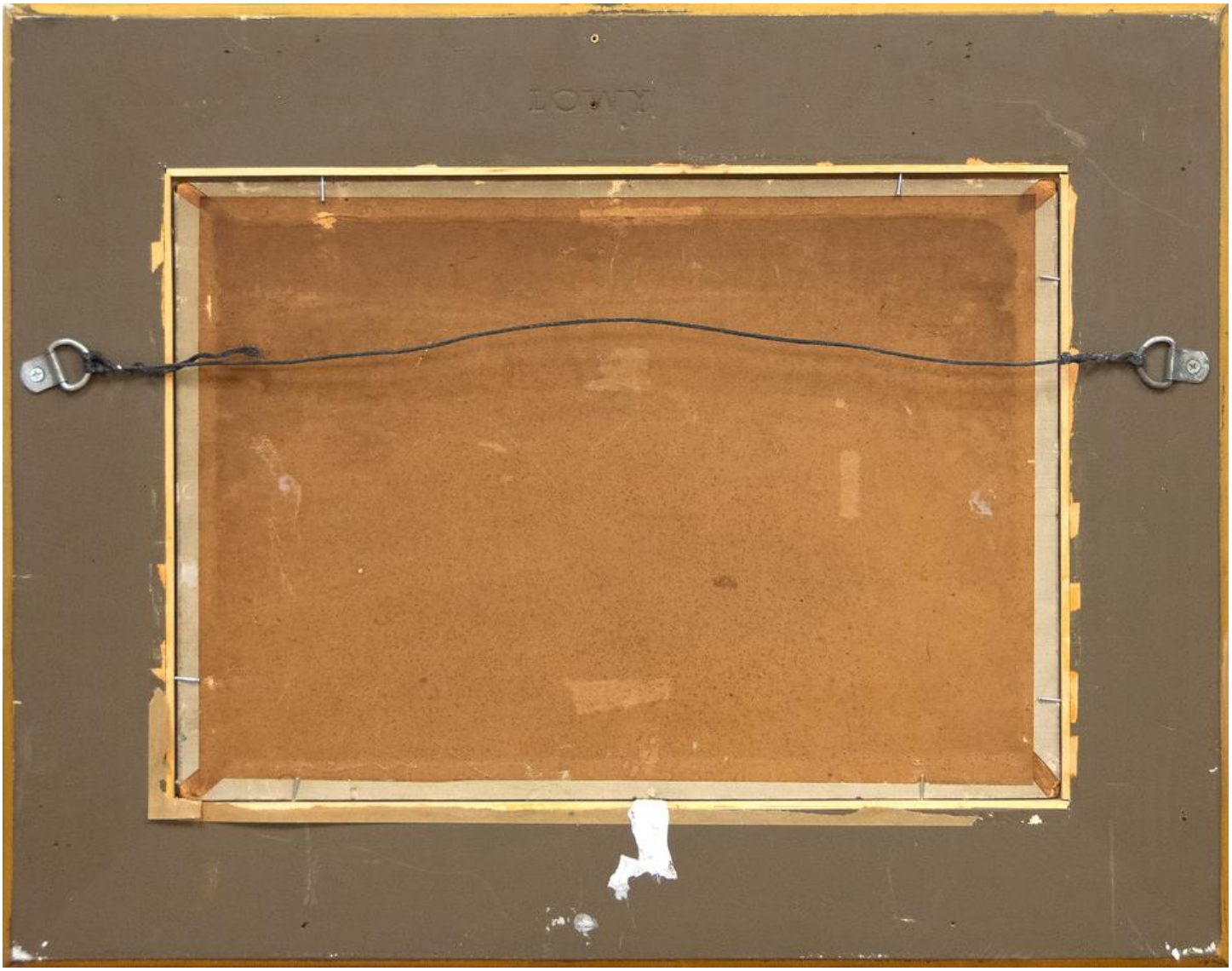
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