

STANTON MACDONALD-WRIGHT (1890-1973)

La Gaite

Signed lower middle, "S. Wright" oil on canvas 50 x 36 in. (51 1/2 x 37 3/4 x 2 3/4 in.) 1958

3886.b

PROVENANCE:

Peyton Wright, New Mexico Private Collection, California

Born in Virginia in 1890, Stanton Macdonald-Wright's interest in art was fostered at an early age by his father, an amateur painter. As a teenager, he traveled to Europe to study art and experience the cultural scene before the onslaught of World War I. In 1911, while visiting London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, and Brussels, Macdonald-Wright met Morgan Russell, another American expatriate. The two studied color theory and worked together, founding the art style Synchromism, in 1912, an abstract offshoot of Cubism that considered color to be the raw material of art. This artistic style, which means "with color," was based on the arrangement of colors in harmonious and musical patterns. Synchromist paintings were called Synchromies, a word which closely resembles "Symphonies." Moving back to the United States and settling in Southern California, Macdonald-Wright's career varied from FAP/WPA Deputy Director of Southern California to art instructor at UCLA to accomplished artist and curator. His multiple travels to Asia and Europe greatly affected his philosophy toward art and his creative practice. Over the years, his style ranged from abstract Synchromist compositions to representational Asian inspired paintings.

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