

WINSLOW HOMER (1836-1910)

In the Wheatfield (Girl Standing in a Wheat Field)

Signed, lower left, "Homer 1873" oil on canvas 21 3/4 x 13 1/2 in. (29 3/4 x 21 5/8 x 2 7/8 in.) 55.25 x 34.29 cm (75.57 x 54.93 x 7.3 cm) 1873

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PROVENANCE:

Sale: Clarence Collins et. al., American Art Association, New York, May 7, 1924, lot 96

Metropolitan Art Galleries, New York, 1924

M.A. Newhouse & Son, St. Louis, 1924

Laura Davidson Sears, Elgin, Illinois, 1924

Sears Academy of Fine Arts at the Elgin Academy, Illinois

Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, 1967

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Pesses, Youngstown, Ohio, 1968

Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, 1971

Private Collection, Massachusetts, 1972

Private Collection, Seattle, 1972–2013

Guarisco Gallery, Washington, D.C

Private Collection, Boston, 2013

EXHIBITION:

New York, Hirschl and Adler Galleries, *American Paintings for Public and Private Collections*, December 4, 1967-January 13, 1968, no. 54

LITERATURE:

"8 Paintings Stolen at Illinois School," New York Times, July 6, 1958 "Stolen Art Recovered," New York Times, July 8, 1958 Goodrich, Lloyd and Gerdts, Abigail Booth, *Record of Works by Winslow Homer, Volume II: 1867 through 1876*, New York, 2005, p. 209, no. 428 (illustrated)

Winslow Homer (1836-1910) was a prolific painter and printmaker whose work, as both an illustrator and artist, is central to American art. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Homer demonstrated early artistic skill and was apprenticed to the Boston commercial lithographer John H. Bufford. Two years into his apprenticeship, however, Homer decided to pursue work as a freelance artist, which he remained for the rest of his life.

After briefly studying oil painting, Homer worked as a commercial illustrator for magazines such as Harper's Weekly. Eventually, Harper's sent him as an artist-correspondent to the front lines of the American Civil War. Covering the war, Homer would begin to produce genre paintings that served more than a journalistic or illustrative function; these paintings instead captured the war's deep emotional and societal impact. Homer's striking Civil War paintings signaled the beginning of his career as a painter, and his remarkable eye for the key inflection points of American

society and culture in the mid to late 19th century. Depicting such poignant topics as the changing role of women, gender relationships, uncaricatured African Americans, the majesty of the American landscape, and the deep and lasting rifts of the Civil War, Homer's work is key to the canon of American art. His paintings hang on prestigious museum walls worldwide and his work is continually a subject of new scholarship and debate.

Homer's work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Smithsonian American Museum of Art, Washington D.C.; The Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Texas; and the Portland Museum of Art, Oregon among many others.

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