

An abstract painting by John Marin, featuring a vibrant blue sky and sea meeting a dark, rocky foreground. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, capturing a sense of movement and light. The text "JOHN MARIN" is centered in the upper half of the image.

JOHN MARIN





JOHN MARIN (1870-1953)

Sea Movement, Maine

Signed, lower right, "Marin 37"

watercolor on paper

15 1/2 x 20 1/2 in. (24 x 29 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

39.37 x 52.07 cm (60.96 x 75.57 x 3.81 cm)

1937

47708

PROVENANCE:

The Estate of the Artist

Kennedy Galleries, New York

Richard York Gallery, New York

A Maine Perspective: The Collection of a New England Gentleman

Grogan & Company, November 17, 2019, lot 53

Private Collection

EXHIBITION:

New York, The Willard Gallery, *John Marin Paintings of the 1930s*, March 2- April 3, 1965

Loretto, Pennsylvania, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, *Masters of American Watercolor: A 100 Year Anniversary*, June 17-September 10, 1995

Waterville, Maine, Colby College Museum of Art, *John Marin in Maine*, June 24-September 27, 1998, no. 13

LITERATURE:

Sheldon Reich, *John Marin: A Stylistic Analysis and Catalogue Raisonné*, 1970, vol. 2, no. 37.19

John Marin's "Sea Movement, Maine" (1937) exemplifies his dynamic approach to watercolor, a medium he transformed into one of the most expressive vehicles of early American modernism. Painted during his mature period, the work captures the restless energy of the Maine coast—a subject Marin returned to repeatedly as a source of inspiration. Quick, gestural strokes convey the surging sea and jagged rocks, while washes of deep blue, gray, and black evoke both immediacy and atmosphere. Marin's hallmark ability to fuse abstraction with observation is evident here: the composition is at once faithful to the rhythms of the natural world and liberated in its expressive freedom.

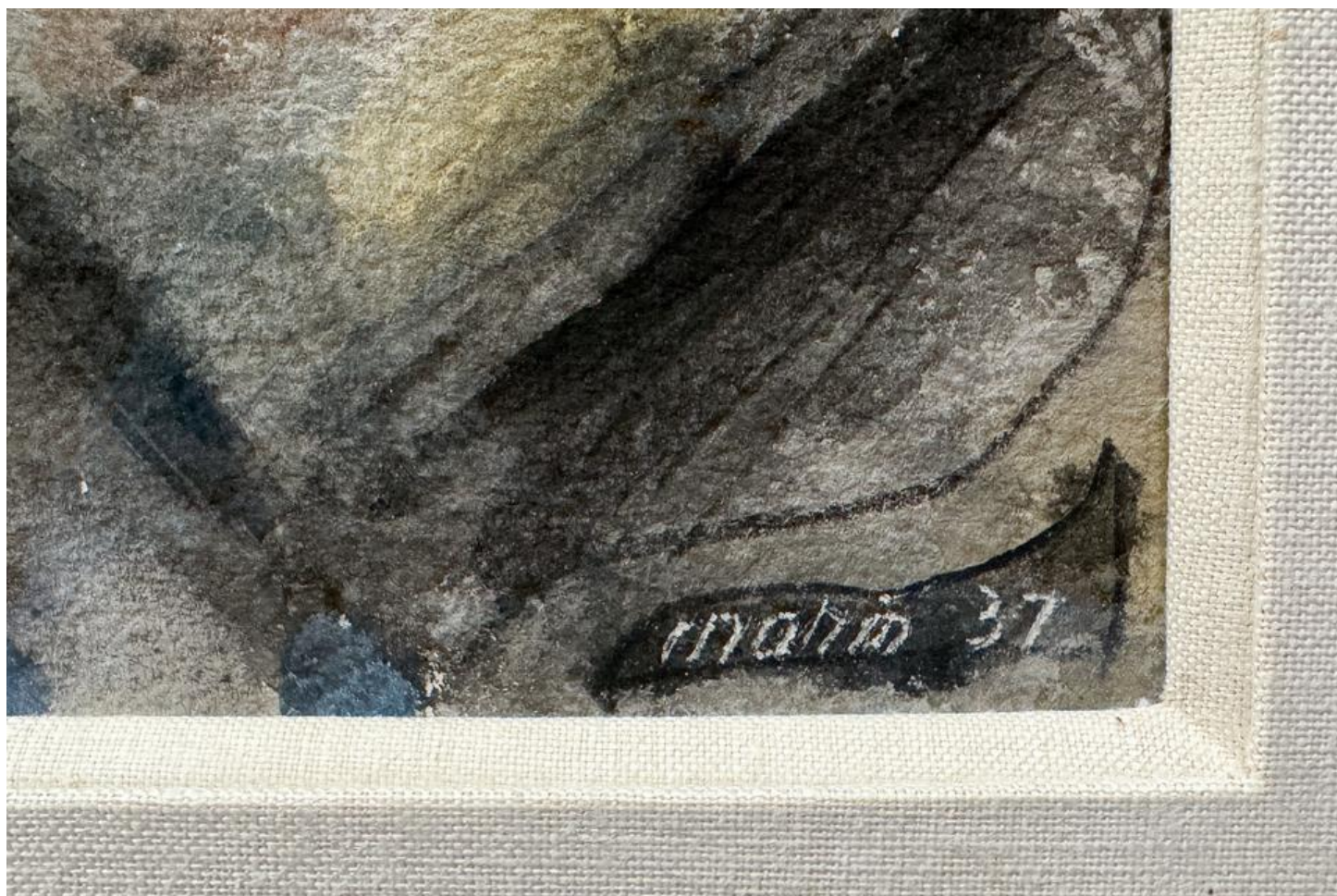
The significance of this work is underscored by its inclusion in Sheldon Reich's 1970 catalogue raisonné (no. 37.19) and its exhibition history in two museum shows, affirming its place within Marin's celebrated body of Maine seascapes. "Sea Movement, Maine" stands as a vivid testament to the artist's lifelong pursuit of translating nature's vitality into painterly form.

ARTIST BIO:

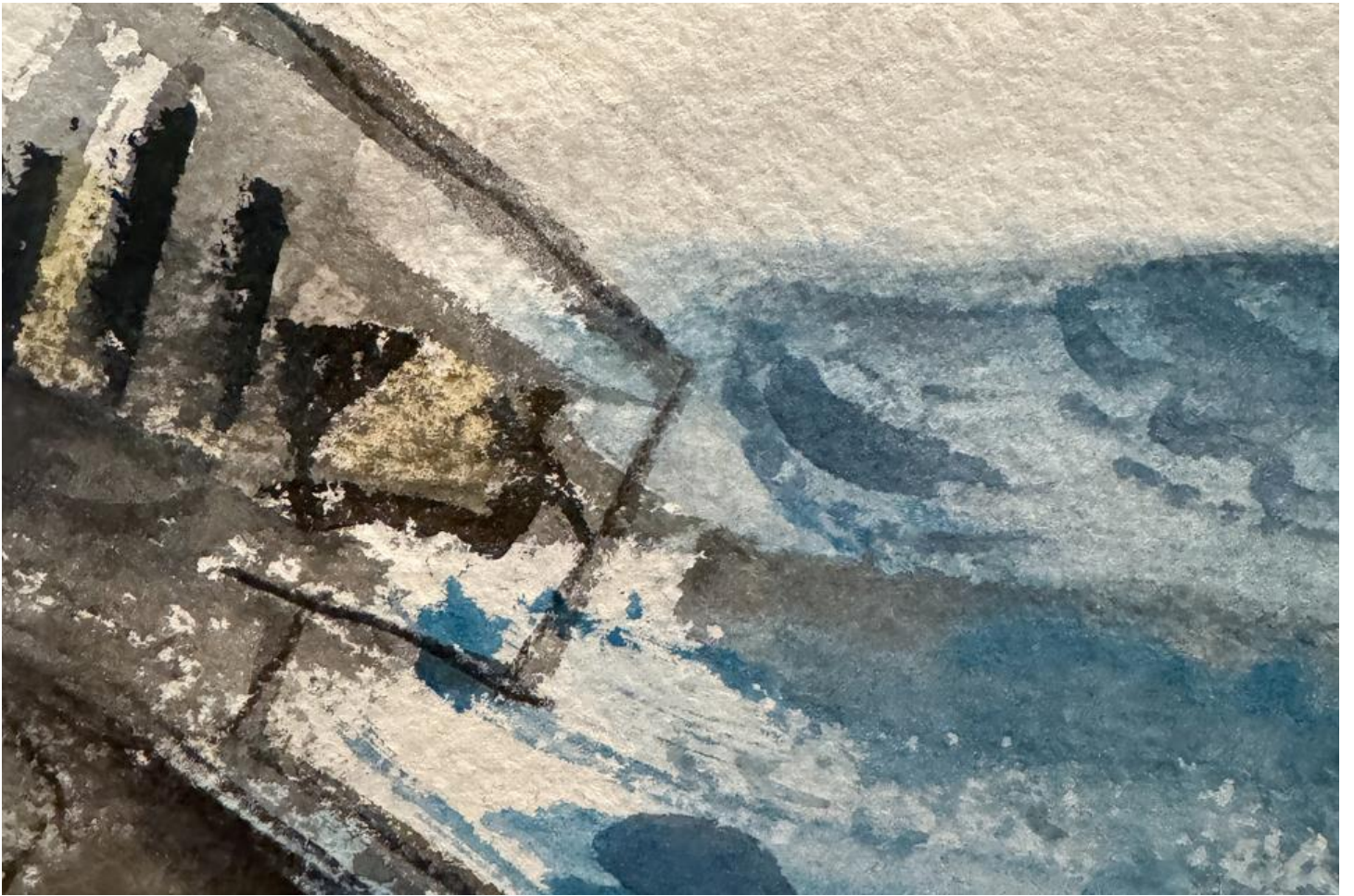
After a late start in studying art at the age of 29, John Marin set up his studio in Paris where he learned to meld the ideas of post-impressionists and the budding modernism of the early 20th century. Championed and supported by renowned gallerist Alfred Stieglitz and photographer Edward Steichen, Marin returned to the United States, bringing with him the avant-garde European style of painting that he rooted in the natural landscape. A 1948 survey of directors, curators, and art critics voted John Marin as the greatest painter in America.

Marin made annual trips to Maine, inspired by its coast and landscape. In many of his paintings of the coast, Marin captures the stark, ruggedness of the seacoast through brushstrokes that push the painting towards abstraction without fully giving into non-representation. Within these works, Marin is able to fully realize his idea that "the true artist must perform go from time to time to the elemental big forms – Sky Sea Mountain Plain."

The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.















JOHN MAINE (1870-1955) 003940
SEA MOVEMENT, MAINE, 1937
Watercolor on paper; 33 1/2 x 20 1/2 inches
Signed lower right
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