



The Cos Cob Art Colony: Impressionists on the Connecticut Shore

Dr. Susan G. Larkin

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What Argenteuil in the 1870s was to French Impressionists, Cos Cob between 1890 and 1920 was to American Impressionists Childe Hassam, Theodore Robinson, John Twachtman, J. Alden Weir, and their followers. These artists and writers came together to work in the modest Cos Cob section of Greenwich, Connecticut, testing new styles and new themes in the stimulating company of colleagues. This beautiful book is the first to examine the art colony at Cos Cob and the role it played in the development of American Impressionist art. During the art-colony period, says Susan Larkin, Greenwich was changing from a farming and fishing community to a prosperous suburb of New York. The artists who gathered in Cos Cob produced work that reflects the resulting tensions between tradition and modernity, nature and technology, and country and city. Their preferred subjects, which include colonial architecture, quiet landscapes, contemplative women, held a complex significance, which Larkin explores. Drawing on maritime history, garden design, women's studies, and more, she places the art colony in its cultural and historical context and reveals unexpected depth in paintings of enormous popular appeal. This generously illustrated book accompanies an exhibition that opens at the National Academy of Design in New York on 14 February 2001 and then travels to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, on 17 June and the Denver Art Museum on 27 October.

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