

Three Portraits of Miss M.

(Painted 1932-33)

by

William E. B. Starkweather (1879–1969)

This picture may be pronounced a minor sensation.

Edward Alden Jewell, New York Times art critic

The New York Times, April 3, 1933

Another which attracted a great deal of praise from visitors as well as judges was a painting by William Starkweather entitled "Three Portraits of Miss M."

New York Daily News, April 5, 1933

*Each night I felt more completely possessed by our
love...heedless of where the voyage would end.*

This was our Eden, and we were alone in it.

Thelma Morgan (Viscountess Furness), recalling her 1930 African safari with Edward VIII



CALDWELL GALLERY HUDSON



Three Portraits of Miss M.

Oil on canvas, 54 x 81 inches, painted in 1932-33

Three Portraits of Miss M.

Oil on canvas, 54 x 81 inches, painted in 1932-33

Signature

Signed lower right "William Starkweather 1932/1933"

Provenance

- The artist, 1933 until his death in 1969.
- Exhibited at Brooklyn Museum, *Twentieth Annual Exhibition of The Allied Artists of America*, April 3-May 1, 1933.
- When Starkweather moved to Virginia in 1948 to open the Starkweather Museum of Art and art school at Endless Caverns, *Three Portraits of Miss M.* hung in the museum.
- Upon the artist's death in 1969, the artist's effects and museum's holdings were bequeathed to Endless Cavern's owner Major Edward Brown. The museum closed in 1976, and the Brown family donated most of the artworks to museums. They retained *Portrait of Miss M* until 1984.
- Sold in the Endless Caverns Property public auction, G.R. Heatwole Auctioneers, Harrisonburg, VA, on June 6, 1984.
- Private collection, 1984 until 1997.
- Sold at Sloan's Auction Galleries, Ltd., Miami Florida, September 21, 1997.
- Purchasers at above auction sold work to Irving Kirsch in early October, 1997.
- Collection of Irving Kirsch, 1997-2022.
- As of 2022, the work is jointly owned by Mr. Kirsch and Caldwell Gallery Hudson.

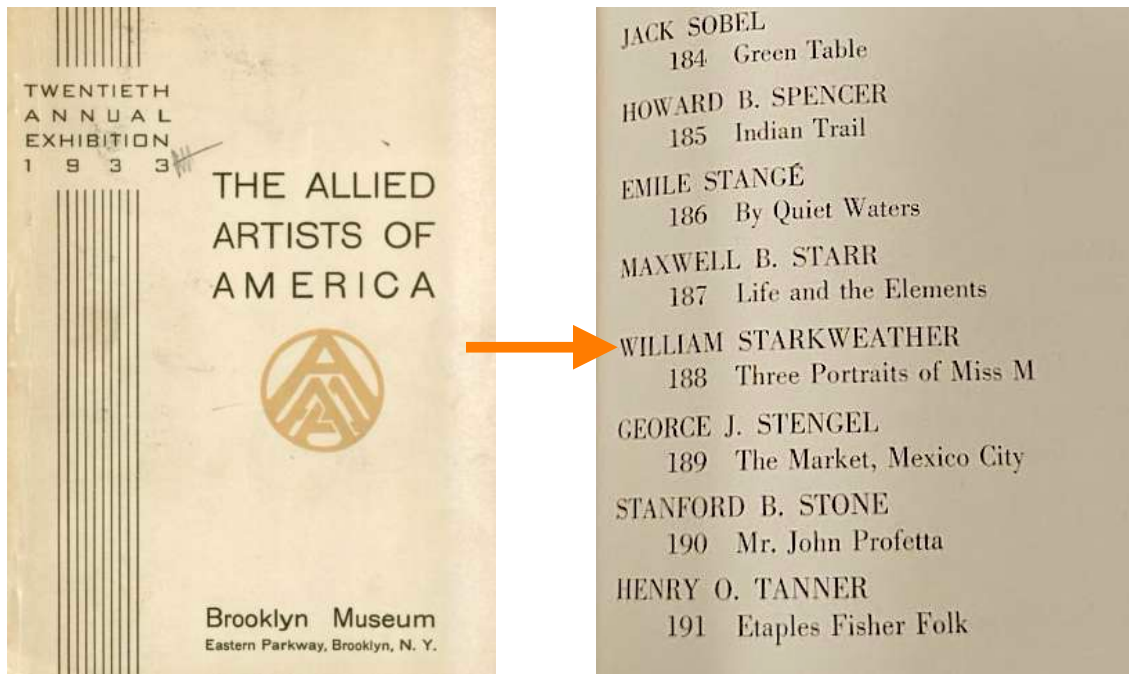
Exhibitions

Exhibited at Brooklyn Museum, *Twentieth Annual Exhibition of The Allied Artists of America*, April 3-May 1, 1933. Two separate contemporaneous newspaper critic articles singled out *Portrait of Miss M.* in their reviews of the exhibition.

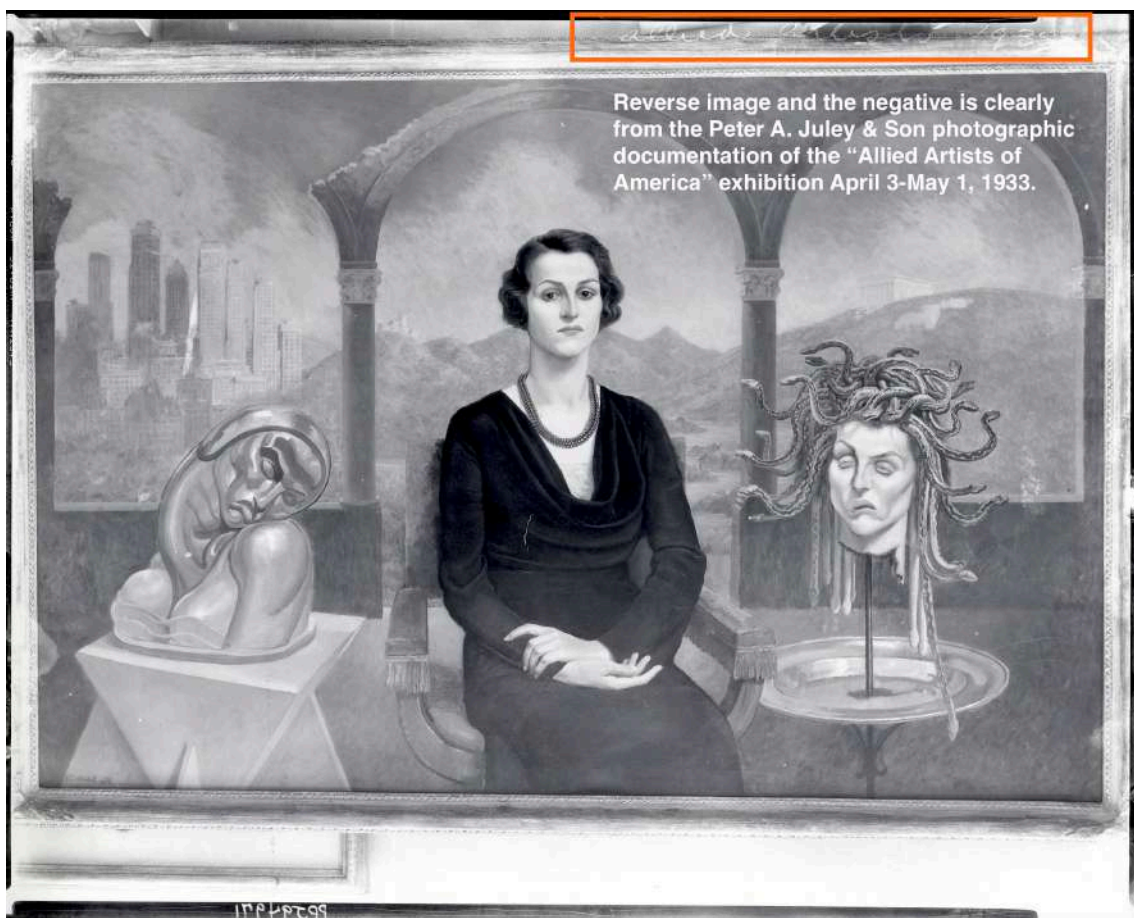
Condition

The work survives in excellent condition. It has been professionally restored including a lining with new custom stretcher, pinpointing of minor areas of loss, and revarnishing.

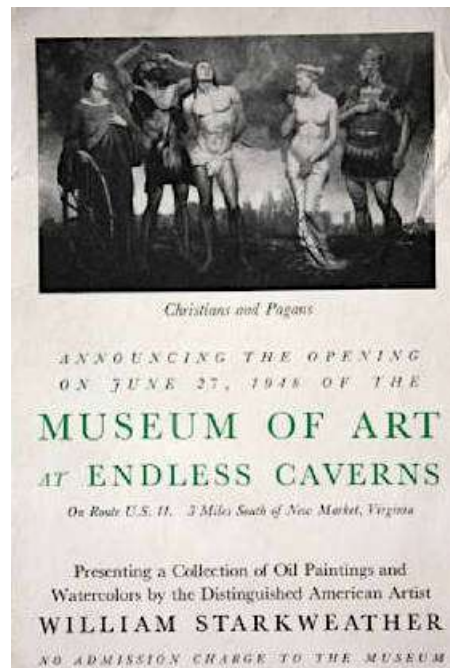
Catalogue citation for *Twentieth Annual Exhibition of The Allied Artists of America* which opened at the Brooklyn Museum on April 3, 1933.



Peter A. Juley & Son documented the works exhibited at the Twentieth Annual Exhibition of The Allied Artists of America, including *Three Portraits of Miss M.*



Starting in 1948, the work hung at the Museum of Art at Endless Caverns in New Market, VA



A Distinguished Artist. A Groundbreaking Painting.



Self-Portrait
(1908)

William Edward Bloomfield Starkweather (1879–1969) was a painter, curator, scholar, teacher, book illustrator, and writer. During his distinguished career, the artist was given more than a dozen one-man exhibitions, and participated in more than fifty group shows. He received jury awards in five exhibitions. More than a dozen museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and Yale University Art Gallery, have the artist's work in their permanent collections.

An Original It Girl. A Future King.



The Future King and
His Mistress (1932)

Thelma Morgan (1904–1970) and her identical twin sister Gloria (née Vanderbilt) were born in Lucerne, Switzerland into a comfortable life of modest privilege. In the 1920s and 30s, Thelma and Gloria were two of the most famous It Girls in the world. Thelma's beauty, glamour, lifestyle and lovers helped launch what has become today's jet set, social media, and influencer culture. Best known as "The Woman Before Wallis", Thelma was the mistress of Edward VIII, Prince of Wales, from 1929-34 when her world fell apart.

A Uniquely Cinematic Painting Narrates a Compelling Story.

Painted at the height of Thelma and Edward's love affair, *Three Portraits of Miss M.* stunningly depicts – in a pictorially clever and psychologically charged manner never before utilized in portraiture – the sitter's past, present, and future selves.

As the world would learn shortly after it was painted, Thelma's future self and life would become much different than this compelling work had envisioned.



A 62-page in depth writeup regarding this remarkable artwork is available upon request.

Please contact Jay Caldwell for additional information.

Mobile: 315.727.1712

Email: jay@caldwellgallery.com

www.CaldwellGallery.com