



## Howard Pyle

### Title

A Dream of Young Summer

### Medium

Oil on canvas

### Date

1901

### Dimensions

22 1/8 × 12 1/8 in. (56.2 × 30.8 cm)

### Accession number

2007.11.24

### Credit Line

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Brokaw, 2007

### Web Description

Originally created to illustrate Edith M. Thomas's contemporary poem of the same name, Howard Pyle's *A Dream of Young Summer* conjures visions of an enchanted land that transcends time. The personification of "Young Summer" as a nature sprite matches the description in Thomas's poem: "Thy wings with many a prism-lighted gleam / Are overshoot, and from a magic reed / Thou

drawest forth those melodies supreme." Pyle excelled in his ability to imagine and illustrate the fantastic scenes of romantic poems and adventure stories. After its publication in *Harper's Monthly* in June of 1901, Pyle gave the painting to the American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, adding this inscription to the front of the painting: "To Augustus Saint-Gaudens / This picture of "Young Summer" in the Fraternal / Greeting of his Brother in Art." He sent it to the sculptor in exchange for a plaster study for the head of "Victory" that graces Saint-Gaudens's Sherman Monument in New York's Grand Army Plaza. Pyle in turn used the sculpture as a model for his 1905 painting *Why Seek Ye the Living Among the Dead*, demonstrating their true brotherhood in art.