



Marsden Hartley

Marsden Hartley

Title

Petunias from Lachaise's Garden

Medium

Oil on academy board

Date

1937-1938

Catalogue Number

2022.8.2

Credit Line

Purchased with funds provided by Rodman and Alice Moorhead, Pamela Biddle and Joel Fishman, Roberts and Allison Brokaw, Margaret Hamilton Duprey, Charles and Aimee Elson, Anne and Michael Moran, Thomas Padon, Claire Reid, Don and Leigh Sparks, Morris and Boo Stroud, Cuyler Walker, David Harrington, the Matz Family Trust, the Alfred Bissell Family, Clementina Brown, Mati Bonetti de Buccini, the First Cornerstone Foundation, the Rock Oak Foundation, Deborah N. Rush, Mac Weymouth, Lance and Sophie Derrickson, and an anonymous donor, 2022

Web Description

A major figure in American modernism, Marsden Hartley was among a group of avant-garde American painters leading the charge of expressive abstraction in the early twentieth century. Though he traveled the world in his younger days, Hartley was long affiliated with his home state of Maine, which became an important place of modernist ferment in the 1920s and 1930s. Ever devoted to his Yankee roots, Hartley wrote “On the Subject of Nativeness—A Tribute to Maine” in 1937, an essay on the artists and writers of Maine. In the same year, Hartley decided to leave New York and return to Maine on a more permanent basis. *Petunias from Lachaise’s Garden* was painted upon his return in honor of Hartley’s friend Gaston Lachaise, a celebrated French sculptor who lived in Maine. Lachaise’s unexpected death in 1935, prompted Hartley’s elegiac tribute to his friend represented by flowers grown in Lachaise’s garden.