



Still Life, Guitar and Sheet Music

Unknown

Oil on canvas, undated

Gift of Richard G. & Sandra D. Toye in memory of Franklin M. and June L. Swengel

Still Life, Guitar and Sheet Music



Unknown Follower or Student of William Harnett

Irish-American painter William Harnett (1848-1892) developed his own distinctive style of trompe-l'oeil that inspired many imitators. Instead of painting a traditional still life where objects are purposefully arranged, Harnett painted mundane, everyday objects such as a messy pile of books and paper on a table or a rusty horseshoe nailed to a wall. *Still Life, Guitar and Sheet Music* was not painted by William Harnett but was likely created by one of his followers or students.

Trompe-l'oeil is French for “deceive the eye.” A number of 17th century Dutch painters perfected the table top still life to astounding realism. Using this technique, viewers feel they can reach into a painting and touch an object. In trompe-l'oeil, artists use a combination of painted realism and optical illusions to make the objects seem three-dimensional.

Collection Connection

Colonel Richard and Sandra Toye made a promise to enhance the collections of the Muscatine Art Center by gifting fine and decorative arts from their collection over a period of many years. Their collection is gifted in memory of Sandra's parents, June L. and Franklin M. Swengel who was vice president of Stanley Engineering (now the Stanley Group). Sandra, a Muscatine High School graduate, and her husband acquired a collection that spans several centuries including a 17th century oil painting by Phillipp Peter Roos, works by artists of the Broadmoor Art Academy around Colorado Springs (1919-1940s) and paintings by contemporary artists such as Thomas Buechner. Between 2004 and 2009, the couple gifted nine paintings and an antique rug.

Thomas Buechner
Red-Haired Aunt

Oil on board, circa 1996

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