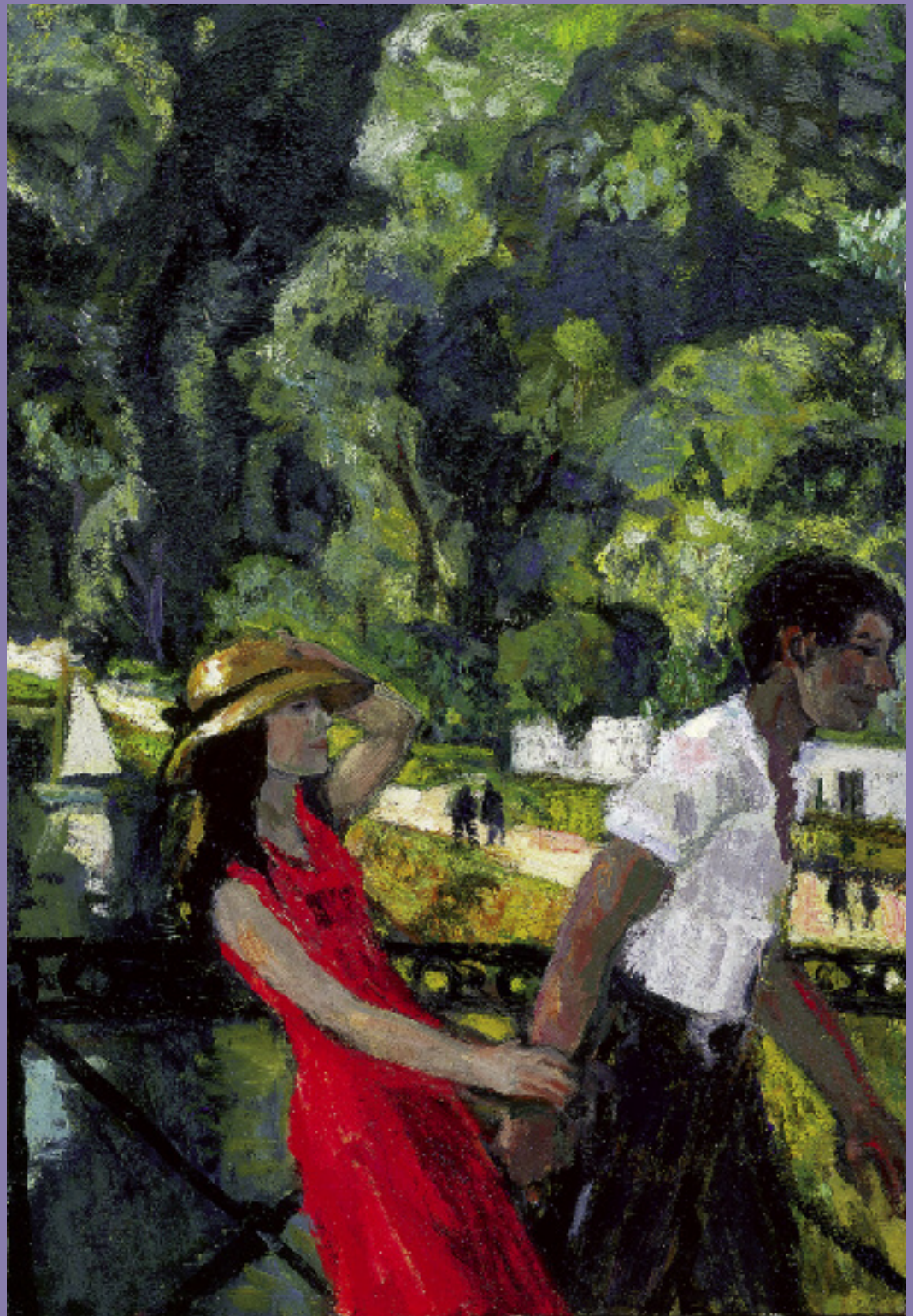


Bernard Lamotte
(1900 – 1983)
Everyday Inspirations

Exhibition IV



VOSE GALLERIES OF BOSTON



Les Bords de la Marne
(The Banks of the Marne)
 Oil on canvas
 26 x 32 inches
 Estate stamped verso
 and inscribed:
 Les Bords de la Marne

Facing page

far right:
Self-Portrait,
Light Effect Study
 Oil on board
 16 x 13 inches
 Signed lower right

near right:
In the Studio
 Oil on canvas
 18 x 26 inches
 Estate stamp verso

Bernard Lamotte
(1900 – 1983)

Everyday Inspirations

December 10 – January 24, 2006

Exhibition IV



BL-310



BL-154

VOSE GALLERIES OF BOSTON



La Marchande de Fleurs
(The Flower Vendor)
 Oil on canvas
 25 x 32 inches
 Signed lower right

BL-066



Flowers in a Violet Vase
 Oil on canvas
 21½ x 13 inches
 Signed lower right

BL-072



Pink and Yellow Roses

BL-308

Oil on board

11 x 16 inches

Initialed lower right



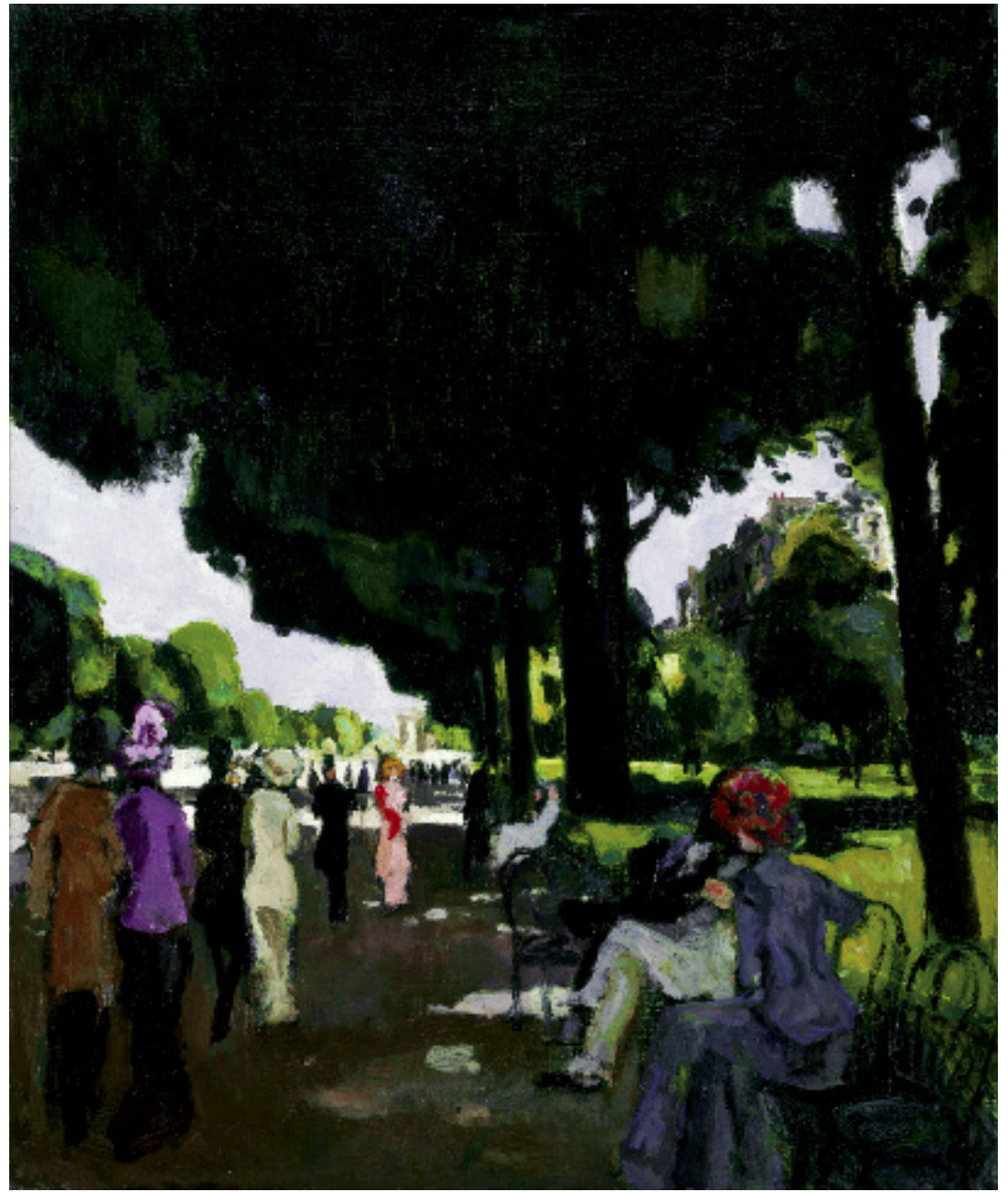
Yellow and White Roses

BL-309

Oil on board

9½ x 14 inches

Estate stamped verso



Afternoon in the Park

BL-296

Oil on canvas

26 x 21 inches

Estate stamped verso



Everyday Inspirations

Bernard Lamotte was a jaunty, congenial Frenchman who, after he emigrated to New York in 1935, brought with him a lively pocket of the Parisian bohemian avant-garde. His studio above La Grenouille Restaurant became a gathering place for writers, actors and painters eager to partake in an atmosphere reminiscent of Montparnasse, a neighborhood on the left bank of the Seine that was famous for its intellectuals and artists. Lamotte's New York friends included Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, and Marlene Dietrich; Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote *Le Petit Prince*, the perennial favorite of first year French language students, in Lamotte's New York studio in the early '40s.

Lamotte was a child of the school of Paris, a tight-knit community of European artists who contributed to the most advanced aesthetic currents of the time. Fauves, Cubists, Surrealists, and many artists whose styles defy categorization, were all testing new ideas in style, form, color and content. Bernard Lamotte found inspiration in the early progenitors of these movements: Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, Chagall and even the pioneers of abstraction, Mondrian and Kandinsky. After traditional training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts under Fernand Cormon and Lucien Simon, Lamotte experimented with the new waves of painting that continually washed over Paris during the first few decades of the twentieth century.

Why Lamotte chose to emigrate to New York City is unclear, but an early biographer suggests that new-found friends in New York City provided encouragement to the young artist. In addition to his easel painting, Lamotte worked as an illustrator, producing drawings for the book *Flight to Arras* by Saint-Exupéry. He also painted murals, including his most famous commission, the murals that surrounded the swimming pool of President John Kennedy (now installed at the Kennedy Library). His murals for the finest restaurants in New York City were legendary: anyone who had the fortune to dine at La Cote Basque Restaurant in New York City (1958–2004) would have been transported to a cafe overlooking the harbor of Saint-Jean-de-Luz on the Cote Basque, the subject of Lamotte's colorful murals.



Bernard Lamotte painting murals for the
White House swimming pool, 1962

Lamotte became an American citizen in 1951. By this time Abstract Expressionism had burst upon the scene, and the center of the art world was shifting from Paris to New York. The Expressionists and Lamotte shared an appreciation for many artists of the school of Paris, but Lamotte never ventured into this new abstract style. If anything, Lamotte's style and subject matter seem closer to American Scene painting, popularized in the '30s and '40s. These canvases typically show scenes of everyday life: vendors selling food on the street, fishermen mending nets, farmers planting, children playing, women gossiping, young lovers strolling by the river. While Lamotte remained true to his French artistic roots, returning again and again to Paris for subject matter, his approach to art, finding meaning in the everyday, was closer to an aesthetic claimed by American artists of an earlier era.

Les Tuilleries, Paris, Oil on canvas, 40 x 73 inches, Estate stamp verso





Champs Elysees, Paris
Oil on canvas mounted
on board
25 x 47 ½ inches
Inscribed lower left:
to Jack and Gladys Sisto,
Bernard Lamotte, avec toute
mon affection, Noel 1955

BL-293



Parisian Street in the Rain
Gouache on paper
19 ½ x 14 ½ inches
Signed lower left

BL-297



Gray Day, Paris
Gouache on paper
19 ½ x 14 ½ inches
Signed lower left

BL-298



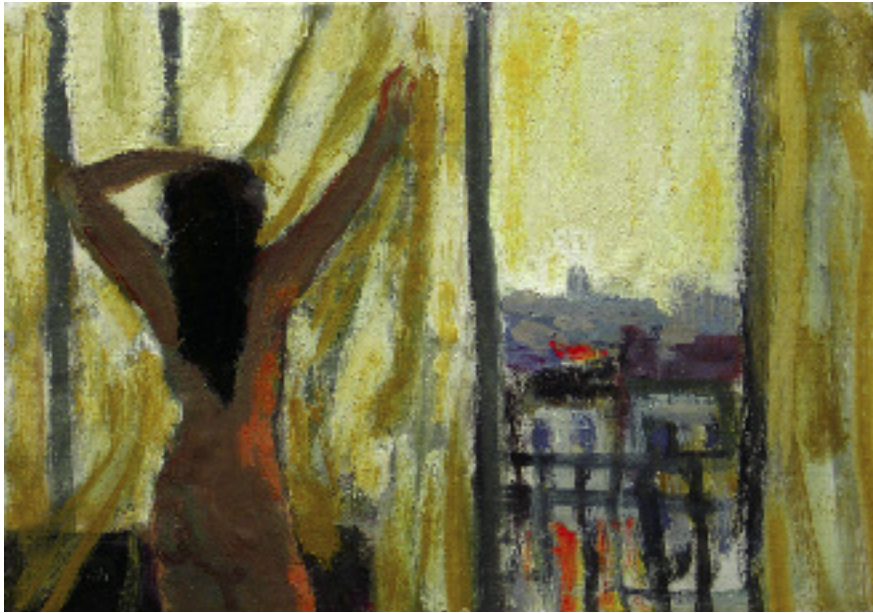
Girl on a Village Street
Gouache on paper
10 x 7 inches
Estate stamped verso

BL-304



Autumn in Paris
Oil on wood panel
78 x 48 inches
Signed lower right

33675



BL-306

Nude Waking in Paris
Oil on canvas board
10 x 14 inches
Estate stamped verso



BL-141

Strollers on the Quai, Paris
Oil on canvas
26 x 32 inches
Signed lower left



Nude in a Paris Apartment
Oil on canvas board
13 x 16 inches
Estate stamped verso



Montmartre in the Rain
Oil on canvas
24 x 29 inches
Signed lower left,
and titled reverse

BL-124

*Le Quatorze Juillet
(Bastille Day)*
Oil on canvas
21½ x 29 inches
Signed Lower right



BL-070



BL-185

Rue de Fourcy
Oil on canvas
26 x 32 inches
Signed lower right



Sunday by the River
Oil on canvas on board,
13 x 16 inches
Estate stamped verso

BL-239



Café à Angle
Oil on canvas
13 x 16 inches
Signed lower left

BL-029



Le Port du Havre
Oil on canvas
25½ x 32 inches
Signed lower left

BL-257



Barges on the River Seine
Oil on canvas
21½ x 26 inches
Estate stamped verso

BL-299



BL-076

La Jetée au Havre
Oil on canvas
13 x 18 inches
Signed lower right



BL-048

Dancing Reflections
Oil on canvas
13 x 18 inches
Estate stamped verso



BL-302

Gypsies
Oil on board
13 x 16 inches
Signed lower right



BL-002

Mediterranean Fisherman
Oil on canvas
11 x 18½ inches
Signed lower right



BL-017

Le Bateau de Pêche, Greece
 Oil on board, 15 x 24 inches
 Signed lower right



BL-126

Bay of Naples
 Oil on canvas, 15 x 21½ inches
 Signed lower right



Le Port de Nice
 Oil on canvas, 18 x 25½
 Signed lower right

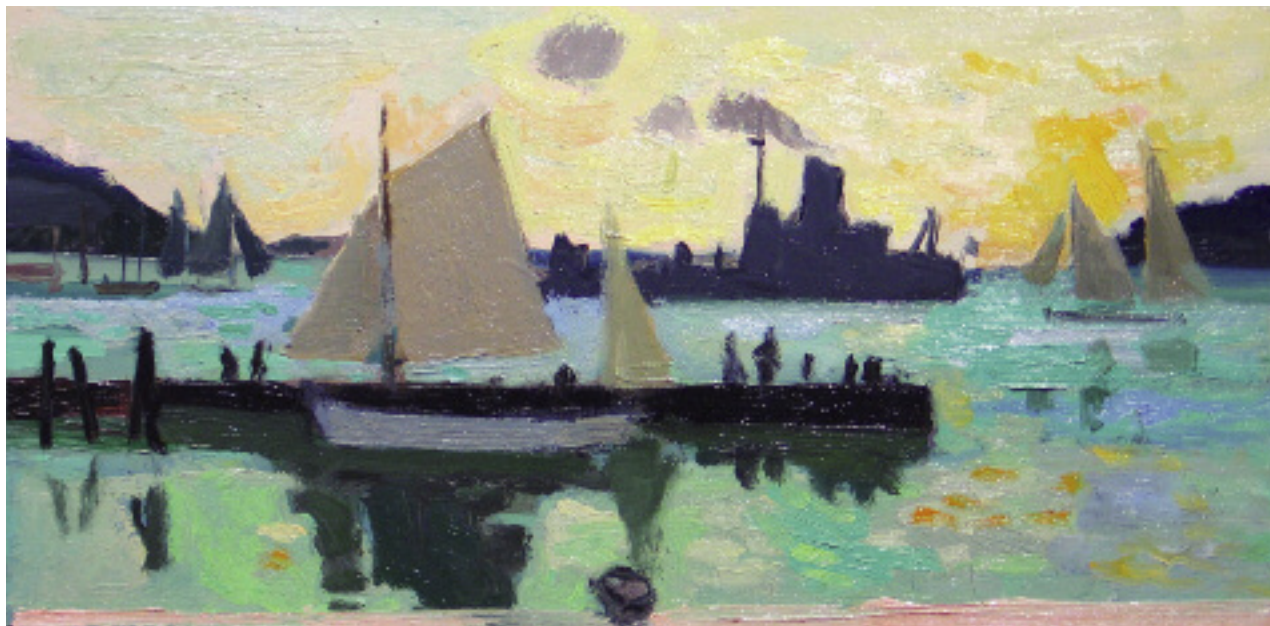
BL-089



Harbor Reflections
Oil on board, 36 x 60 inches
Estate stamped verso

BL-028

St. Thomas
 Oil on board, 12 x 23 inches
 \$17,000
 Estate stamped verso



BL-094



BL-083

Boats in Inlet, Tahiti
 Oil on board, 12 x 14 inches
 \$5,000
 Estate stamped verso



BL-126

Bay of Naples
 Oil on canvas, 15 x 21½ inches
 Signed lower right

Selected Chronology

1903

Born on July 30 to an insurance clerk and his dressmaker wife living on the Boulevard de Baugirard, in the Montparnasse *quartier* of Paris

1921–1927

Attends the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, the most prestigious in France. Studies with history painter, Fernande-Anne-Piestre Cormon (1854–1924) and later in the atelier of Lucien Simon (1861–1945), a portrait painter also known for his Breton genre scenes.

1927

Has first one-person show in Paris and sells 26 works.
Marries Angel Longe, an editor at *Elle* magazine.

1932

Lamotte visits New York, then travels to Tahiti where he stays for a year

1935

Settles in New York City for the remainder of his life; naturalized in 1951.
Works as an illustrator. Exhibits work in New York's Bignou Gallery.

1936

Solo exhibition at the esteemed Wildenstein Gallery, New York City.

1941

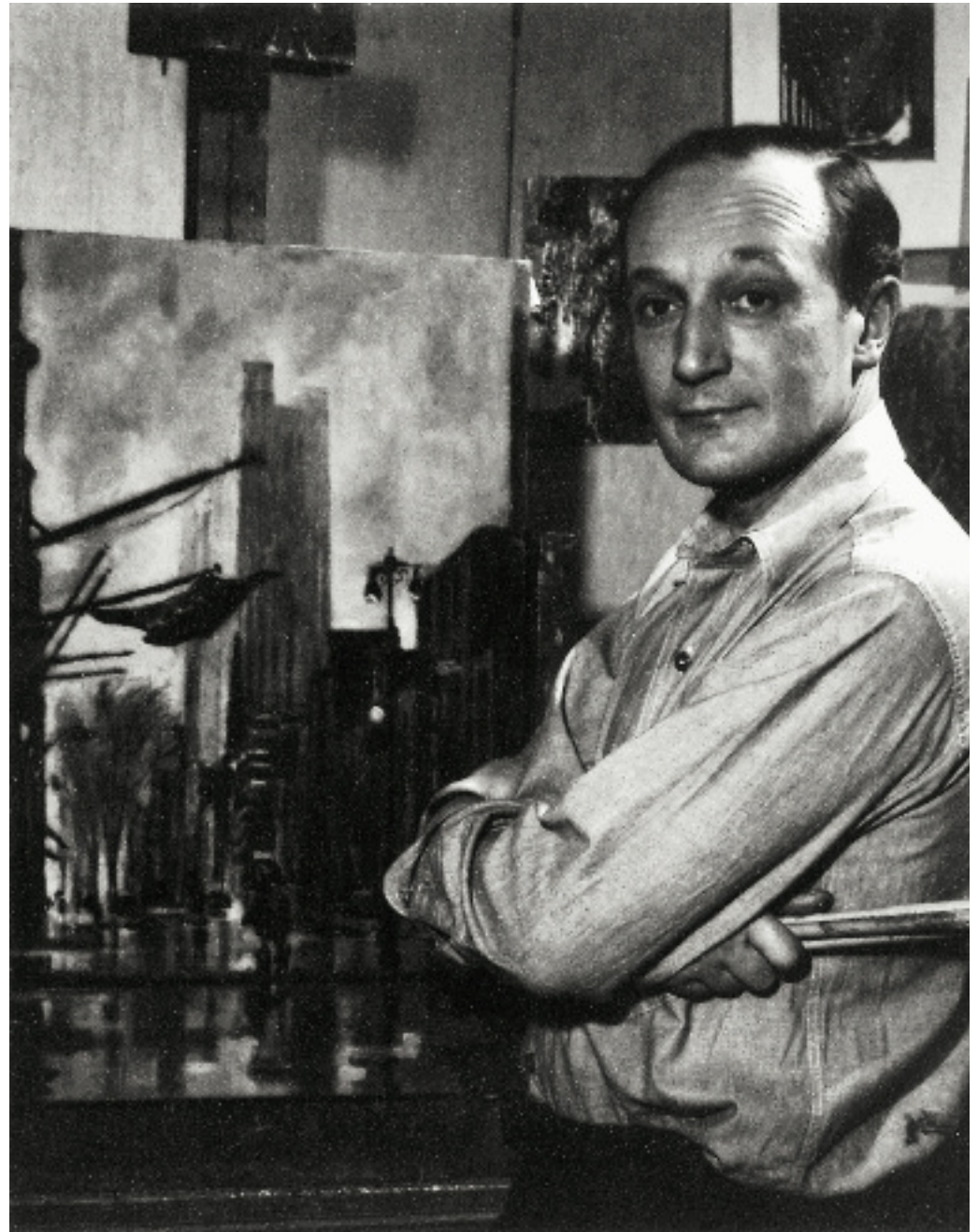
Makes second visit to Tahiti. Begins bi-annual exhibitions at Carroll Carstairs Gallery.

1946

A year after his first wife dies, marries Lilyan White Kent, a painter and sculptor. Lilyan, the widow of Sidney R. Kent, president of Twentieth Century Fox, and Lamotte live in New York City, but continue to travel in exclusive Hollywood and Palm Beach social circles.

1949

The Lamottes entertain frequently in Bernard's studio on East 52nd Street. He refers to it as *Le Bacal* (The Fishbowl). Their bohemian lifestyle is chronicled in *Cue* magazine. Over next ten years articles and photographs of the couple also appear in *Vogue* and *Town and Country*.





La Cote Basque Restaurant, New York City



Le Chemin de Punauia, Tahiti
(Punauia's porch, Tahiti)
Oil on board, 24 x 29 inches
Signed lower right

BL-292



Tahitian Path
Oil on canvas
20 x 29 inches
Signed lower left

BL-291

1958

Lamotte completes murals of Saint-Jean-de-Luz that decorate the walls of *La Cote Basque* restaurant in New York City.

1960

Paints murals for *Le Pavillon* restaurant, New York City.

1961

Joseph P. Kennedy commissions Lamotte to paint a mural for the White House pool, Washington, DC, for his son, President John F. Kennedy. Lamotte's subject is a harbor scene at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, a favorite vacation spot for the Kennedy family.

1962

Town and Country magazine reproduces the murals in the December, 1962 issue.

Paints panorama of Paris for the French Government Tourist Office, New York.

1964

The *La Grenouille* restaurant opens a private dining room in Lamotte's studio. Walls are decorated with paintings by the artist.

1965

Solo exhibition at Palm Beach Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida

1970

Solo Exhibition at Dalzell Hatfield Galleries, Los Angeles entitled *Bernard Lamotte, Contemporary Master of the Paris Scene*.



Bernard Lamotte shown with his murals for the White House swimming pool, 1962.

1975

Second solo exhibition at Dalzell Hatfield Galleries, entitled *Bernard Lamotte, Contemporary Master of the Paris Scene*.

1978

Time-Life Inc. sponsors his third trip to Tahiti, which continues throughout the Orient including Japan and Hong Kong.

1983

Lamotte dies in his eightieth year of complications following surgery at St. Luke's Hospital, New York City.

1993

Lamotte family selects Vose Galleries of Boston to be the sole agent for the estate of Bernard Lamotte. Holds first exhibition: *Bernard Lamotte, (1903–1983), Exhibition I*

1995

Solo exhibition at Vose Galleries of Boston, *Bernard Lamotte, Exhibition II*

1998

Third solo exhibition at Vose Galleries of Boston, *Bernard Lamotte, Tour du Monde: Scenes of Paris and Beyond, Exhibition III*

2005

Fourth solo exhibition at Vose Galleries of Boston, *Bernard Lamotte, People and Place, Exhibition IV*

Credits

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Elizabeth W. Vose, Sales Associate

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Fifth Avenue Rain (New York)

Oil on board, 32 x 26 inches

Inscribed lower right: to Jack and
Gladys, Bernard Lamotte

BL-294



Brooklyn Bridge

Gouache on board, 10 x 25 inches

Estate stamped verso

BL-169

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