

Basic Detail Report



Nocturne by the River

Date

1922

Primary Maker

Charles Rollo Peters

Medium

Oil on canvas

Description

Painters of nocturnal scenes exist in almost every painting community in the world, although they are always in the minority. California nocturnalists include Frank Tenney Johnson and Charles Rollo Peters. The turn of the century saw the rise of several nocturnalists inspired by paintings by James Abbott McNeill Whistler, the American who settled in London where he painted almost abstract works which he called nocturnes. There was also a turn-of-the-century fashion for painting nighttime city scenes in the rain. Artists were fascinated with the light effects resulting from streetlights, carriage lights and lights from windows. Peters appeals to Victorian sentimentality in focusing on the humble home (usually a California adobe) in whose window a light burns, suggesting hospitality.

Dimensions

Overall: 16 x 24 in. (40.6 x 61 cm)