



Hawaiian Girl

Date

1942-1962

Primary Maker

Millard Sheets

Medium

Watercolor on paper

Description

Merritt “Muggs” Van Sant first met Millard Sheets in the Bradbury building where he was selling insurance and Sheets was painting the building’s iconic iron stairs. Muggs was fascinated by Millard’s talent, and Sheets was about as personable a type as one comes by. The pair became fast friends, travelling together to paint—a hobby first introduced to Muggs by Sheets. Between 1942 and 1962 Sheets sent Muggs Christmas cards and gifts in the form of paintings with personalized inscriptions. After Muggs’ passing, David Starry-Sheets, Millard Sheets organized the sale of the Muggs Van Sant Collection, and it was purchased by Ann Cullen. Paintings in this collection, such as *Young Japanese Mother*, tend to be snapshots of Sheets’ travels abroad sent back home to his good friend Muggs. Sheets could fly free in the United States through his work with United Airlines—Hawaii had been a popular vacation destination for him since he first visited in 1935 and continued to be a destination for Sheets from 1942-1962.

Dimensions

4 1/2 × 1 1/2 in. (11.4 × 3.8 cm) Framed: 19 1/2 × 10 1/2 × 7/8 in. (49.5 × 26.7 × 2.2 cm)