

Basic Detail Report



Kyoto Girl

Date

c. 1958

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 Kyoto Girl, tend to be snapshots of Sheets’ travels abroad sent back home to his good friend Muggs. The vast majority of these paintings are portraits of young women from Mexico, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Islands painted while Sheets was serving as an arts ambassador for the U.S. State Department. This portrait of Japanese woman fits the general theme of these paintings perfectly. A personalized inscription is likely written on the reverse but has yet to be seen.

Dimensions

10 1/2 × 9 1/2 in. (26.7 × 24.1 cm) Framed: 22 1/4 × 16 3/8 × 1/2 in. (56.5 × 41.6 × 1.3 cm)