



Theodore Lukits (1897-1992)

Oriental Harmony

Signed lower left

Oil on panel

36 x 30 in.

Painted circa 1918-1920

7791

Provenance:

Purchased from Ms. Lucille Luktis

Exhibited:

Pasadena, California, Pacific Asia Museum, *Theodore Luktis - An American Orientalist*, October 17 - November 29, 1998

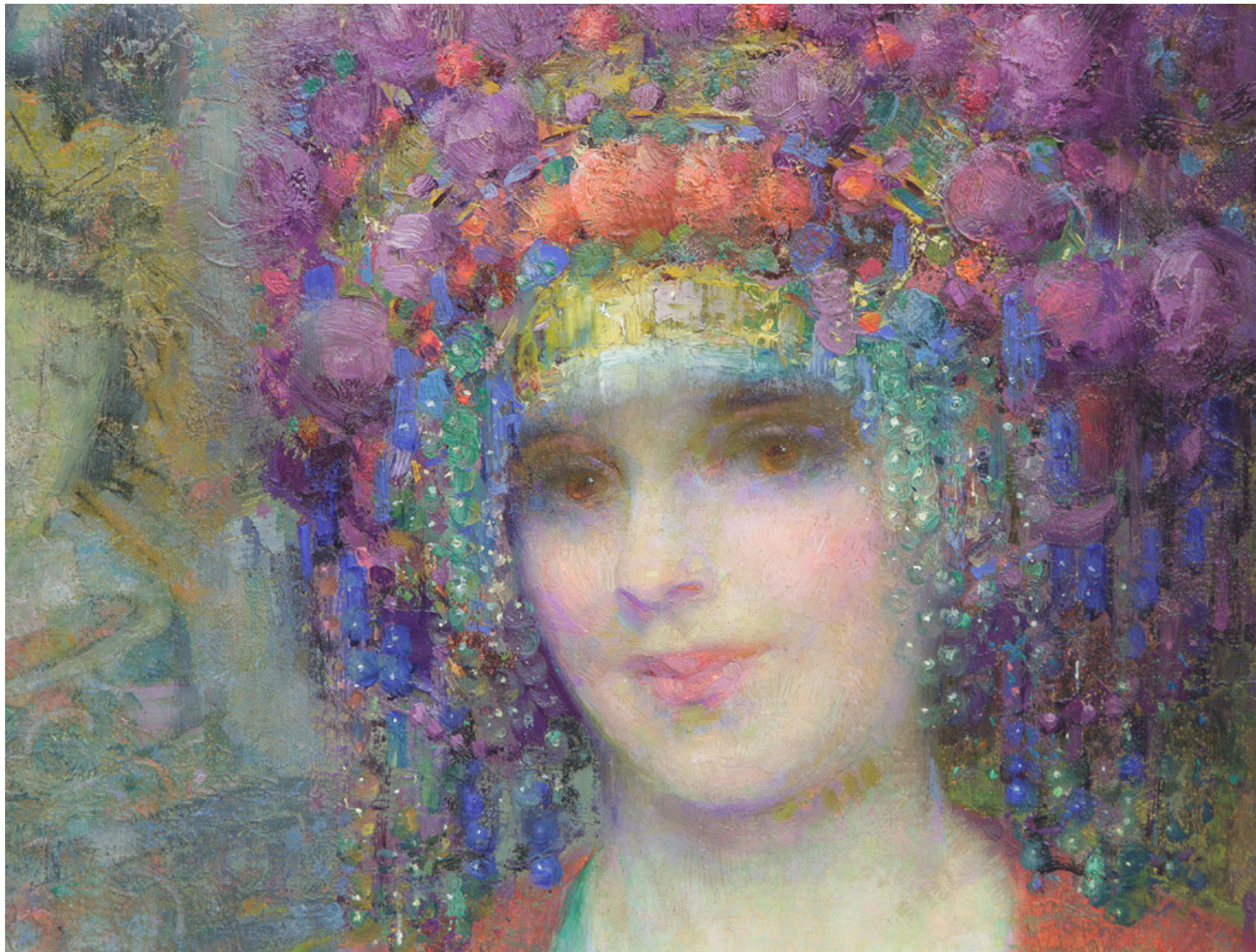
traveled to: Oxnard, California, Carnegie Art Museum, December 12, 1998 - February 21, 1999; Fullerton, California, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, April 3 - 29, 1999

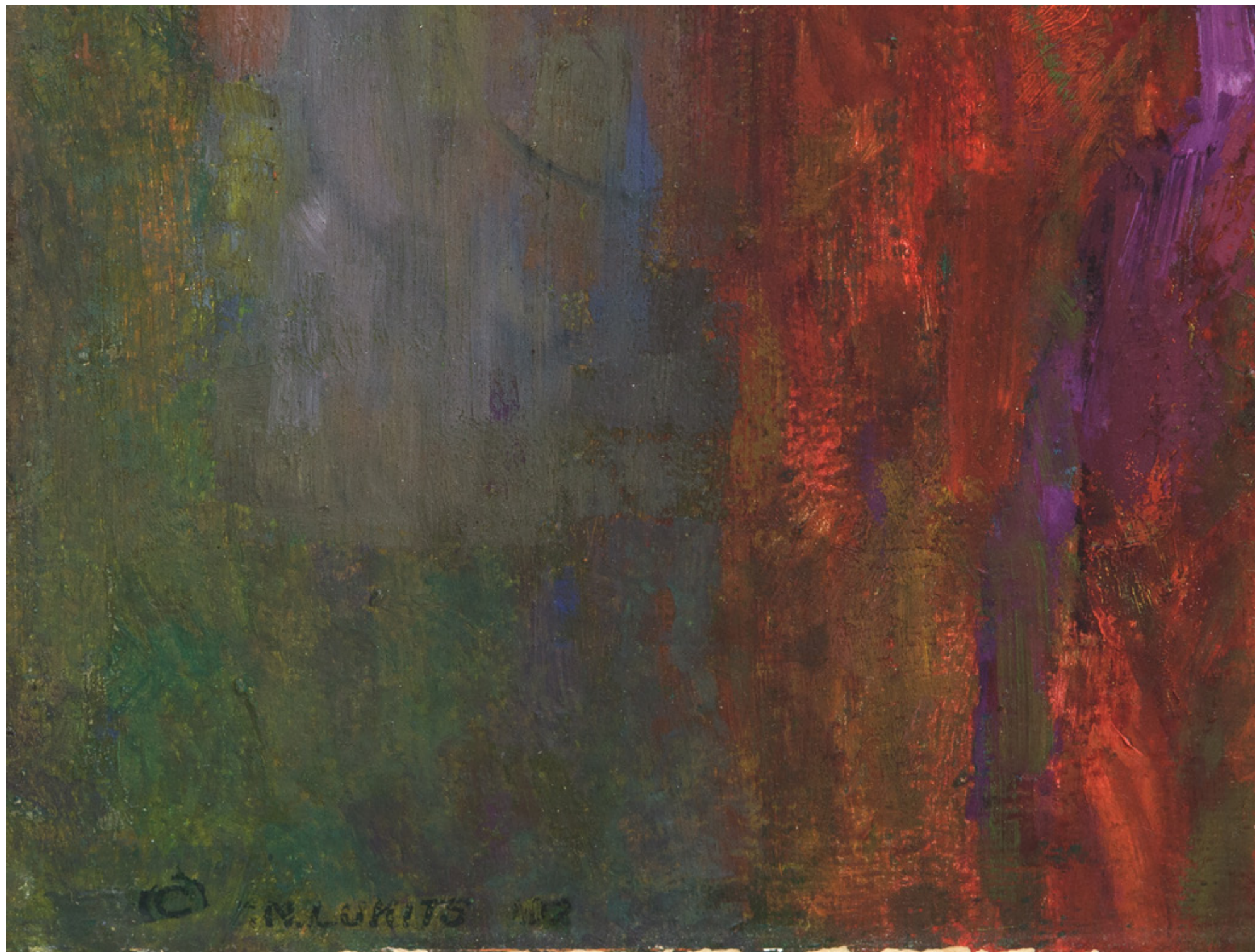
Literature:

Theodore Luktis: An American Orientalist. Pasadena: California Art Club Press, 1998. 5.

One of Theodore Luktis' most significant early works, the artist completed this accomplished painting when he was twenty-one years old, as he was finishing his studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. Many of Luktis' influences are on display in this bold, colorful painting; from the distinct American Impressionist style of his teachers, Richard E. Miller and Karl Buehr, to the artist's interest in Chinese textiles and Japanese woodblock prints. *Oriental Harmony* is a classic work of Decorative Impressionism, coupling a realistically painted figure, which reveals the artist's academic training, with a highly stylized background. Luktis' teacher, Richard E. Miller, stated his goal was to restore a decorative element to painting. This work, featuring an American model in a Chinese robe, seated before a painted Japanese screen, exemplifies the ways in which Luktis adopted and continued Miller's aim.

Theodore Luktis was born in Hungary and moved to Los Angeles in 1922 after studying art at Washington University and the Art Institute of Chicago. In Southern California, he built a career painting portraits of prominent local residents and later established the Luktis Academy of Fine Arts, where he taught many well-known California landscape and figurative painters.







THEODORE N. LUKITS

(1897–1992)

☞ An American Orientalist



Introduction

THEODORE LUKITS IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST INTRIGUING ORIENTALIST ARTISTS—OF TRANSYLVANIAN ORIGIN, RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT PROFOUNDLY INSPIRED BY EUROPEAN IMPRESSIONISM AND THE RICH ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF EAST ASIA.

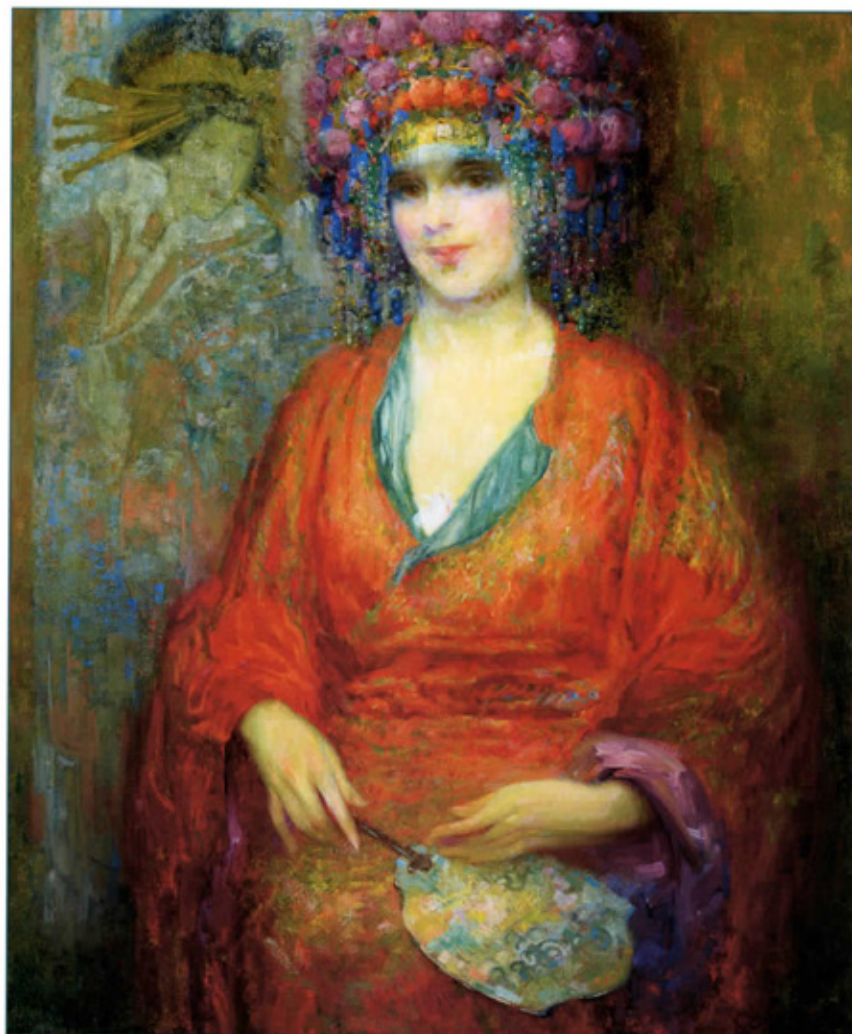
ALTHOUGH HIS WORK INCLUDES NUMEROUS FINE AMERICAN LANDSCAPES, IT IS HIS ORIENTALIST PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES THAT ARE FEATURED IN THIS EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY THE CALIFORNIA ART CLUB, THE LUKITS ART TRUST AND JEFFREY MORSEBURG. IN THESE WORKS, GRACEFULLY POSED HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIES ARE DRAPED IN

KIMONOS AND HOLD EXOTIC FANS AND LANTERNS, WHILE RICHLY COLORED CHINESE AND JAPANESE ACTORS ARE LIT WITH DRAMATIC THEATRICAL LIGHTING. INTERESTINGLY, LUKITS' STILL-LIFES OF CHINESE ARTIFACTS SUCH AS FIGURES OF GUANYIN AND ELEGANT CERAMIC HORSES ARE ANYTHING BUT STILL—THEY TOO ARE CAREFULLY COMPOSED TO SUGGEST GRACEFUL MOVEMENT UNDER DRAMATIC LIGHT.

PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM IS AN IDEAL VENUE FOR THIS ARTIST'S WORK IN WHICH IMAGES SYMBOLIC OF BOTH CALIFORNIA AND EAST ASIA ARE UNITED. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT HIS WORK HERE AND WISH THE EXHIBITION EVERY SUCCESS.

MEHER McARTHUR

Curator of East Asian Art, Pacific Asia Museum



Oriental Harmony

c. 1919

36" × 30"

oil on panel

Collection:

Mr. Thomas Gianetto