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Charles W. Hutson
1840-1936
Pastels and Watercolors

January 22nd through March 7th, 2015

The Edward Thorp Gallery is pleased to present a second exhibition of works by Charles W. Hutson. On display will be a selection of over thirty newly discovered works focusing on the early period of this Southern, self-taught artist. Born in 1840 in McPhersonville, South Carolina, Mr. Hutson was also a scholar, historian, and writer.

His art was influenced by his many experiences and adventures across the nineteenth century South, building on his family's long history in South Carolina. After graduating from South Carolina College, he served as a private in the Confederate Army. He became a casualty in the first Battle of Bull Run in 1861 and was captured in the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862. At the end of the war, he turned to academia, working as an itinerant teacher in numerous academic institutions for sixty years, during which time he wrote, edited, and contributed to many periodicals.

He had begun sketching in pastel while teaching in Texas in 1905. However, it was not until his retirement that he became serious about painting. Turning to his surroundings in New Orleans and the Mississippi coast for inspiration, he developed a radiant and expressive style: first in pastels, then watercolor, and later, in oils. An amateur botanist, his love of nature is apparent in his work. He has been described as both a modernist and a primitive, a reflection of his vision and uniqueness.

Greatly admired in his lifetime, recognition came through exhibitions by the Society of Independent Artists in New York in 1917 and the Delgado Museum of Art in 1931. He was ninety-one years old when he was given his first one-man exhibition at the Delgado, now the New Orleans Museum of Art. He died in 1936 in New Orleans.

His works can be found in the Phillips Collection, New Orleans Museum of Art, Mint Museum of Art, and the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was included in "They Taught Themselves: American Primitive Painters of the 20th Century" by Sidney Janis published in 1942.

Gallery hours: 11am to 6pm, Tuesday through Saturday. email: edwardthorpgallery@gmail.com
www.edwardthorpgallery.com