

GILDED AGE LEGACIES



FEATURING ART BY
HISTORICAL 19TH
CENTURY ARTISTS

HELENA DE KAY GILDER

CECILIA BEAU

JOHN LA FARGE

WYATT EATON

Historical Art Catalog

By The Original Gilded Age Family

OIL PORTRAIT OF RICHARD WATSON GILDER



Artist: Cecilia Beaux (1855–1942)

Medium: Oil & Charcoal On Board

Date: ca. 1890s

Provenance: Featured in The Century's American Artists Series, Sept. 1894

This compelling oil portrait by acclaimed American artist Cecilia Beaux captures Richard Watson Gilder, one of the most influential literary figures of the late 19th century. Executed at the height of Beaux's career, the work exemplifies her masterful technique and her hallmark ability to convey psychological depth and quiet dignity.

Gilder—poet, editor of *The Century Magazine*, and an impassioned advocate for the arts—was a central figure in America's cultural and intellectual life. Alongside his wife, Helena deKay Gilder, he helped shape what has come to be known as The Gilder Age, a golden era of American artistic and literary expression.

This portrait, with its nuanced handling of light and character, is not only a tribute to an extraordinary man but also a testament to the refined realism and emotional insight that define Beaux's oeuvre.

PRICE

\$ 250K

PORTRAIT OF HELENA DE KAY GILDER



Artist: Wyatt Eaton, & Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Oil on unlined canvas

Date: ca. 1870s

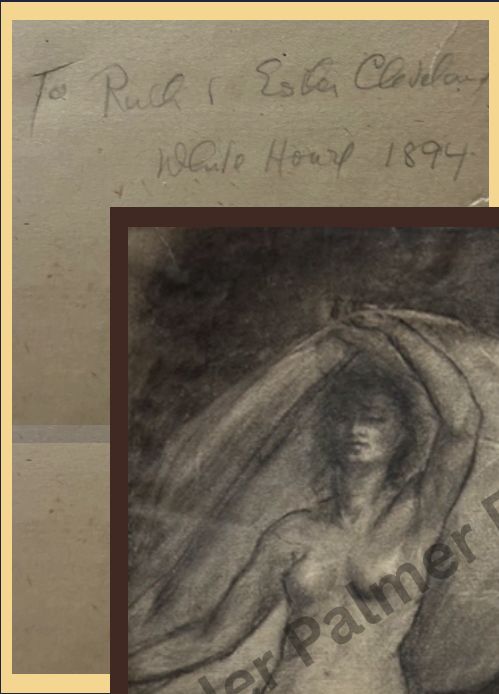
This collaborative oil portrait presents a rare artistic dialogue between Helena De Kay Gilder and Wyatt Eaton, two prominent figures in the American art world of the 19th century. Painted on unlined canvas, the work captures Helena in a moment of introspective poise, rendered with Eaton's skilled brushwork and De Kay Gilder's subtle artistic input. The piece reflects both their rapport and shared commitment to advancing American art. A blend of technical finesse and emotional nuance, this portrait is a testament to artistic partnership and legacy.

PRICE

\$ 150K

RARE NUDE SKETCH OF FIRST LADY FRANCES FOLSOM CLEVELAND **DONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE**

(U S President Grover Cleveland's Wife)



Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoals
Date: ca. 1894
Provenance: Sketched At The White House In 1894

PRICE

\$ 450K

This singular work, publicly revealed for the first time, offers an unprecedented glimpse into American history and the intimate power of fine art.

This rare and historically extraordinary nude sketch of First Lady Frances Folsom Cleveland—wife of President Grover Cleveland—was rendered in charcoal by Helena de Kay Gilder, one of her generation's most pioneering women artists. Executed within the walls of the White House in 1894, the drawing captures not only the grace and poise of the nation's youngest First Lady but also the rare trust and intimacy between subject and artist.

Helena de Kay Gilder, co-founder of the Art Students League and a vital force in shaping the American arts in the late 19th century, imbues the work with remarkable sensitivity, strength, and restraint. With elegant lines and a minimalist palette, the sketch transcends traditional portraiture to become a poetic reflection of femininity, power, and cultural symbolism at the heart of the American presidency.

Previously unseen and held privately for over a century, this piece marks a milestone in American art and political history, both for its artistic merit and for its intimate documentation of a First Lady rarely viewed through such an honest, human lens.

This work represents a treasure of artistic achievement and a bold and timeless statement of historical intimacy and cultural legacy.

OIL PAINTING OF DOROTHEA GILDER



Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Oil

Date: ca. 1880s

This tender oil portrait by Helena de Kay Gilder—a trailblazing American artist and co-founder of the Art Students League—offers an intimate glimpse into the artist's world. Depicting her daughter Dorothea Gilder with a soft yet confident hand, the work blends maternal warmth with painterly precision.

Executed in the 1880s, the portrait reflects Gilder's hallmark sensitivity to character, expressed through gentle brushwork, controlled palette, and a poised, almost dreamlike atmosphere. As with much of Gilder's work, the piece transcends mere representation, drawing the viewer into a quiet, introspective moment. Dorothea later takes on her role as a muse for an obsessed Cecilia Beaux.

Helena de Kay Gilder was a foundational figure in late 19th-century American art, known not only for her refined technique but for her influence within New York's cultural elite. This portrait stands as both a personal testament and a masterful example of the grace and emotional resonance that define her legacy.

PRICE

\$ 65K

Charcoal Sketch Water Lily



Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder In the Style of John **Lafarge**
(American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

This graceful charcoal sketch by Helena de Kay Gilder pays tribute to the refined botanical studies and spiritual romanticism of her close contemporary, John LaFarge. Rendered with quiet precision and a lyrical line, the drawing captures the serene elegance of a single water lily—a symbol of purity, reflection, and transience.

Gilder, a founding member of the Art Students League and a pioneering figure in American art, brings her own voice to this contemplative study. While the influence of LaFarge's decorative naturalism is present, Gilder's unique sensibility infuses the sketch with a soft emotional weight and introspective calm.

This piece stands as both homage and expression—an intimate botanical meditation that reflects Gilder's deep connection to nature, form, and the visual poetry that defined her artistic legacy.

PRICE

\$ 45K

CHARCOAL DRAWING OF WATERFALL

W/ WHATS BLEIVED TO BE JOHN SINGER SARGEANT'S FACE
SKETCHED IN SHRUBS



Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Charcoals

Date: ca. 1880s

This atmospheric charcoal drawing by American artist Helena de Kay Gilder captures the raw grace and contemplative movement of a woodland waterfall rendered in striking monochrome. A founder of the Art Students League and a visionary in American art circles, Gilder's command of line and tonal variation evokes both serenity and strength.

What sets this piece apart is the intriguing presence of John Singer Sargent's face, subtly etched into the surrounding shrubbery—an imaginative fusion of natural landscape and portraiture. Whether a symbolic homage or an artistic in-joke shared among peers, the hidden visage invites closer inspection and adds a layer of narrative intrigue to the composition.

Executed with lyrical restraint and emotional nuance, this rare work reflects Gilder's deep sensitivity to nature, her connections within the Gilded Age art world, and her gift for embedding deeper meaning within seemingly serene imagery.

PRICE

\$ 7,500

SELF PORTRAIT OF HELENA DE KAY GILDER HOLDING
RODMAN

PREGNANT WITH RICHARD WATSON GILDER JR. 1879



This intimate charcoal self-portrait captures Helena De Kay Gilder during a profoundly personal moment—pregnant with her son, Richard Watson Gilder Jr. (1879). With tender precision, Helena depicts herself holding Rodman, likely a beloved pet or cherished companion, symbolizing the intimate bonds of family and life. The delicate shading and expressive lines showcase her mastery of charcoal as a medium, evoking both strength and vulnerability. This work offers a rare glimpse into the artist's private world, blending maternal warmth with artistic introspection.

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

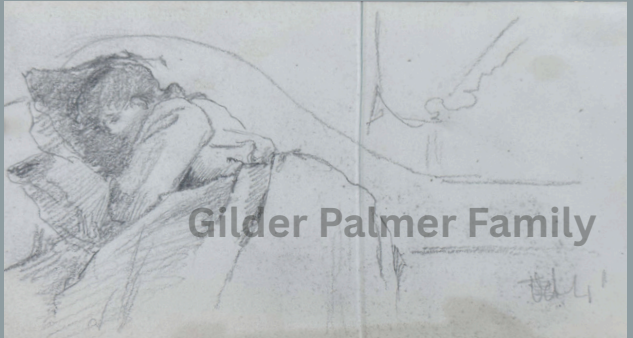
Medium: Charcoals

Date: ca. 1879-1880

PRICE

\$ 55K

Double-Sided Sketch of Winslow Homer sketching Helena and Helena Crying



\$ 750K

Artist: Helena de Kay (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal

Date: ca. 1869

This rare double-sided charcoal drawing by Helena de Kay features Winslow Homer sketching Helena de Kay, capturing the charged energy between artist and muse. On the reverse, Helena's own self-portrait shows her in anguish, throwing herself onto her bed after her mother forbids her to accept Homer's proposal. Though angered, Homer later forgave her and invited her back to his studio. A poignant glimpse into the emotional and creative ties within the Gilder Palmer family.

Richard Watson Gilder Jr. An Angel In Heaven Sketch By HDK Gifted To Richard Watson Gilder Sr.



\$ 55K

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoals
Date: ca. 1879-1880

This poignant charcoal sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder serves as a tender tribute to her infant son, Richard Watson Gilder Jr., portrayed as an angel in heaven. Created in the aftermath of personal loss, the work was gifted to Richard Watson Gilder Sr., capturing both profound grief and enduring love. The delicate, ethereal rendering speaks to the artist's intimate connection to her subject, imbuing the piece with spiritual grace and emotional depth.

Charcoal Sketch Of Madam Modjeka

This striking charcoal sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder presents Madam Modjeka with a compelling blend of realism and expressive nuance. The artist's deft use of charcoal captures the sitter's character and presence with subtle shading and confident lines, offering a powerful study of personality and poise from the late 19th century.



\$ 40K

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoals
Date: ca. 1880



Watercolor Painting

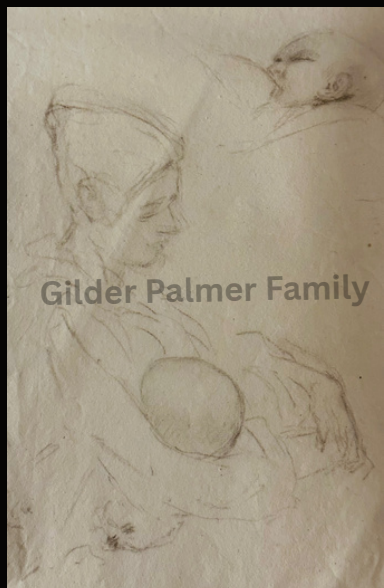
Portrait Of Helena de Kay Gilder

Attributed to John Lafarge

This exquisite watercolor portrait, attributed to John La Farge, offers a delicate and intimate depiction of Helena De Kay Gilder in her early artistic years. The subtle brushwork and gentle color palette highlight her refined features and quiet grace, reflecting the stylistic nuances of the period. This work provides a rare and beautiful glimpse into the life of a notable artist within the vibrant 19th-century art community.

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Watercolors
Date: ca. 1872

\$ 45K



Sketch Of Nursing Mother

This intimate charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder explores the nurturing bond between mother and child. With delicate lines and thoughtful shading, the work symbolizes the vital essence of maternal care and sustenance. Reflecting themes of life and nourishment, it offers a tender glimpse into the artist's exploration of motherhood and its profound emotional resonance during the late 19th century.

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. 1872-1874

\$ 20K

Charcoal Sketch Of Coastal New England



Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Charcoal

Date: ca. Mid. 1880's

\$ 45K

This evocative charcoal sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures the rugged charm and atmospheric mood of Coastal New England. Through dynamic strokes and subtle shading, the artist conveys the natural textures of the shoreline, blending realism with impressionistic sensitivity. The work exemplifies Gilder's keen eye for landscape and her ability to evoke a serene yet powerful sense of place.

The 8th Sept. Paradise

(A Lewis Comfort Tiffany Glass Study)

\$ 20K

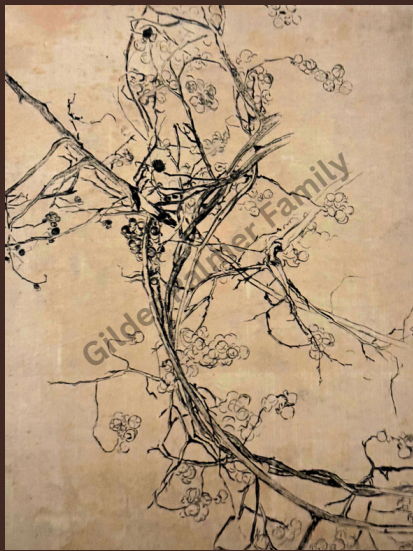
This charcoal study, associated with the Lewis Comfort Tiffany estate, titled *The 8th Sept. Paradise*, offers a captivating glimpse into Helena De Kay Gilder's artistic dialogue with themes of nature and light. Rendered with masterful control of tone and texture, the piece reflects Gilder's skill in charcoal to create mood and depth. The study's connection to Tiffany underscores its significance within the broader context of late 19th-century American art.



Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Charcoal

Date: ca. Mid. 1880's



Charcoal Sketch Of Berry Blossoms

(A Lewis Comfort Tiffany Glass Study)

\$ 50K

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. Mid. 1890's

This delicate charcoal pencil sketch of berry blossoms, part of the Lewis Comfort Tiffany estate, showcases Helena De Kay Gilder's exquisite attention to natural detail. The finely rendered blossoms reveal her mastery in capturing the ephemeral beauty of nature with subtle shading and precise line work. This study reflects the artist's connection to Tiffany's artistic circle and the broader appreciation of botanical themes in late 19th-century American art.

Charcoal Sketch Of The Adirondack Valley

\$ 35K

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoal
Date: ca. Mid. 1890's

This evocative charcoal sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures the serene beauty of the Adirondack Valley with expressive yet controlled strokes. The artist's deft use of charcoal brings forth the region's rolling landscapes and dense foliage, evoking a tranquil and timeless natural scene. The work highlights Gilder's keen observation and her ability to convey atmosphere through minimalist detail.



Charcoal Sketch Of The River Bank

\$ 35K

Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Medium: Charcoal

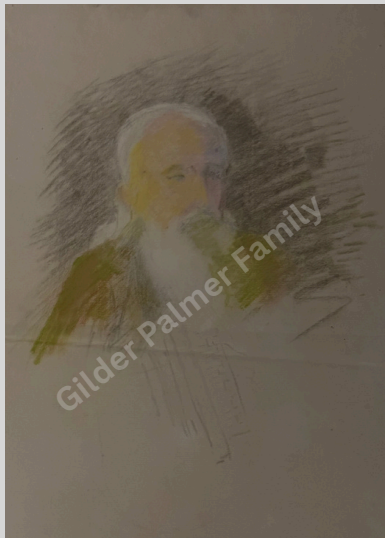
Date: ca. Mid. 1890's



This evocative charcoal sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder portrays a tranquil river bank scene, rendered with fluid lines and rich shading. The artist's skilled handling of charcoal captures the gentle flow of water and the surrounding natural elements, creating a peaceful and immersive landscape. The work reflects Gilder's deep appreciation for nature's quiet moments and her ability to evoke mood through simplicity.

John Muir

This expressive mixed-media sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures the iconic naturalist John Muir with striking immediacy. Combining charcoal's depth with the softness of pastels, Gilder conveys both Muir's rugged character and contemplative spirit. The dynamic interplay of mediums highlights the artist's versatility and her connection to prominent figures in the American conservation movement of the late 19th century.

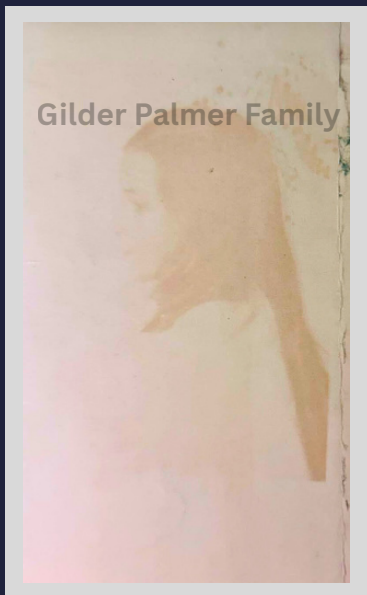


Artist: Helena De Kay Gilder

Muti-Medium: Charcoal & Pastels

Date: ca. Mid. 1888's

\$ 45K



Sketch study of Esther Drinker as a girl on paper

This delicate charcoal pencil sketch captures a youthful Esther Drinker in a moment of quiet introspection. Rendered with subtle precision and emotional warmth, the work reflects Francesca Gilder Palmer's refined draughtsmanship and sensitivity to character. Created in the mid-1870s, this piece is both a personal memento and a rare example of early portrait study from the Gilder Palmer legacy, offering insight into the familial and artistic heritage of the era.

Artist: Francesca Gilder Palmer

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. Mid. 1892-1905

\$ 75K

Sketch Of Helena de Kay Gilder In the Garden By Mary Hallock Foote



Artist: Mary Hallock Foote

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. Mid. 1875's

\$ 20K

This intimate charcoal pencil sketch by Mary Hallock Foote offers a serene portrayal of Helena De Kay Gilder amidst a garden setting. The delicate lines and soft shading capture a quiet moment of reflection, highlighting both the subject's grace and the artist's keen observational skill. The work reflects the close artistic circle and friendships shared among late 19th-century American women artists.

George Gilder Sr.

This finely rendered charcoal pencil portrait by Francesca Gilder Palmer depicts George Gilder Sr., the youngest son of Richard Watson Gilder. The artist's sensitive approach captures the youth's character with delicate shading and precise line work, offering an intimate glimpse into the Gilder family legacy. The work reflects the artistic talents within the family and the era's portraiture style.

Gilder Palmer Family

Artist: Francesca Gilder Palmer

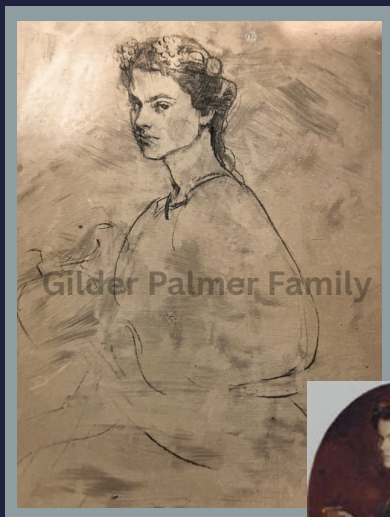
Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. Mid. 1875's

\$ 30K

Cecilia Beaux Study Of Dorothea Gilder Girl With Lyre

This exquisite charcoal study by renowned American artist Cecilia Beaux depicts Dorothea Gilder poised with a lyre, blending classical grace with a subtle modern sensibility. Beaux's masterful handling of charcoal brings out the sitter's delicate features and serene expression, capturing a moment of quiet musical reverie. The work highlights Beaux's celebrated skill in portraiture and her nuanced approach to character and form.



Gilder Palmer Family

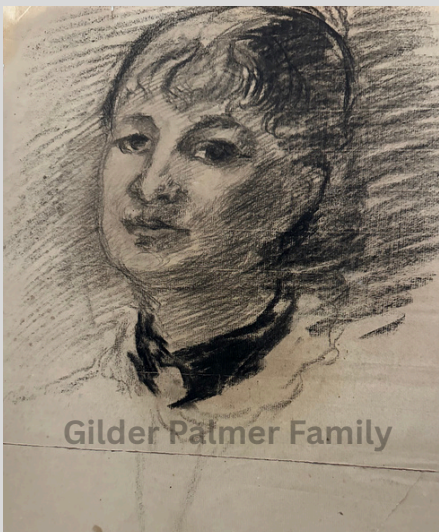


\$ 150K

Artist: Cecilia Beaux (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal

Date: ca. 1905



Charcoal Sketch Of Emma Calvé

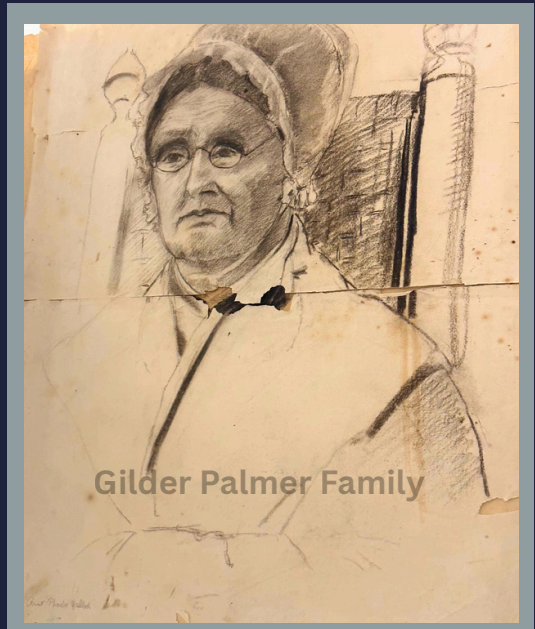
This striking charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures the famed French operatic soprano Emma Calvé with elegant precision. Through delicate shading and confident lines, Gilder conveys Calvé's expressive presence and artistic intensity. The work reflects the artist's refined portraiture skills and her engagement with prominent cultural figures at the turn of the century.

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder
Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. 1900

\$ 45K

Sketch Of Mary Hallock Foote's Aunt Phoebe

This intimate multi-medium charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder portrays Aunt Phoebe, a relative of artist Mary Hallock Foote. The work highlights Gilder's skillful blend of delicate line work and subtle shading to capture the sitter's character and warmth. Reflecting close personal connections within the artistic community of the era, this piece offers a tender glimpse into familial ties and 19th-century portraiture.



\$ 50K

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder
Muti-Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. 1874

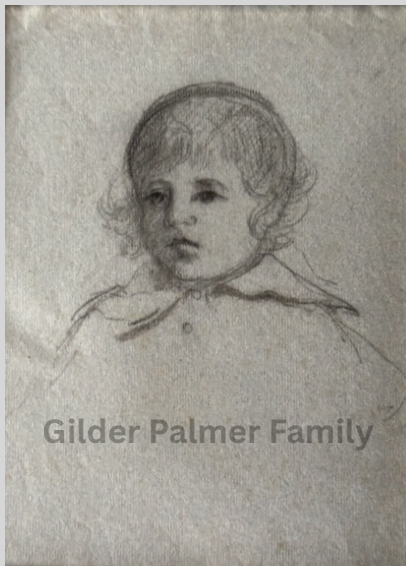
Helena De Kay Gilder With Infant In The Hammock

\$ 35K

Artist: Mary Hallock Foote
Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. 1876



This tender charcoal pencil drawing by Mary Hallock Foote depicts her lover, Helena de Kay, cradling an infant in a hammock, capturing a quiet moment of maternal intimacy. The delicate lines and soft shading emphasize warmth and gentle care, reflecting personal affection and a sensitive approach. The piece resonates with the theme of family, nurturing, and the quiet beauty of everyday life.



Charcoal Sketch Of George Gilder Sr. As A Young Boy

This finely detailed charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures George Gilder Sr. in his youth with a blend of realism and tender observation. The artist's expert use of shading and line conveys both the innocence and character of the young subject, offering an intimate portrayal rooted in familial affection. This work exemplifies Gilder's mastery in charcoal and her commitment to personal and expressive portraiture.

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)
Medium: Charcoal Pencil
Date: ca. 1884

\$ 50K



Sketch & Watercolor Of Dorothea Gilder

This charming mixed-media portrait by Cecilia Beaux captures Dorothea Gilder at three years old, marking the early chapter of a life destined for global exploration. Combining charcoal's depth with the softness of pastel, Beaux renders a youthful innocence and vibrant spirit with delicate detail and subtle color. The work beautifully conveys the promise and wonder of childhood through the hand of one of America's foremost portraitists.

Artist: Cecilia Boux (American, 1846-1916)

Muti-Medium: Charcoal & Pastel

Date: ca. 1885

\$ 65K

Watercolor Of Winslow Homer

This delicate watercolor by Helena De Kay Gilder portrays the influential American artist Winslow Homer with subtlety and grace. The soft washes and careful brushwork capture Homer's contemplative presence, reflecting Gilder's refined technique and intimate connection to the artistic community of her time. The piece offers a rare and personal glimpse of one of America's most celebrated painters.



\$ 35K

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Watercolor

Date: ca. 1873

Charcoal sketch of Aunt Feebie With The Cats



\$ 30K

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. 1873

In this charming and intimate charcoal pencil sketch, Helena De Kay Gilder captures "Aunt Feebie" in a quiet domestic moment surrounded by her cats. The artist's delicate linework and soft shading evoke warmth, affection, and a touch of humor, reflecting Gilder's talent for portraying both character and atmosphere. A graceful blend of portraiture and genre scene, this work offers a glimpse into 19th-century familial life through a deeply personal lens.



Mother And Child

This tender charcoal pencil drawing captures Helena De Kay Gilder with her first child, Marion, in an intimate and heartfelt moment. With graceful lines and soft tonal shading, Gilder conveys the profound emotional bond between mother and child. The composition reflects not only her technical skill but also her deep personal connection to the subject, offering a timeless portrayal of maternal love and early motherhood in the post-Civil War era.

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

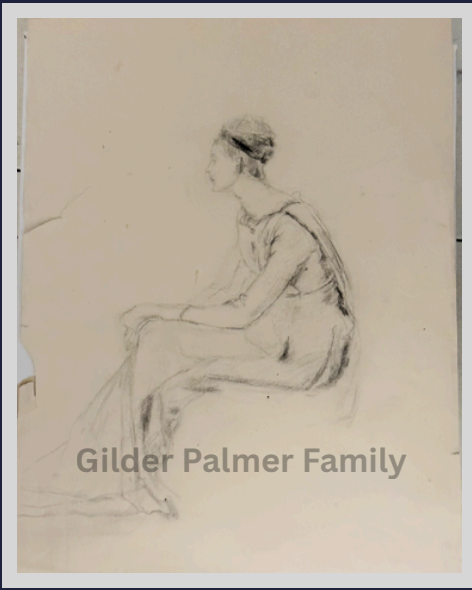
Date: ca. 1876

\$ 35K

Sketch Of Brnesta Drinker

\$ 50K

This elegant charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder depicts Ernesta Drinker, the beloved niece of renowned portraitist Cecilia Beaux. Captured with refined linework and atmospheric shading, the portrait reflects Gilder's sensitivity to character and form. The sitter's poised yet youthful expression suggests both personal familiarity and a shared artistic milieu, offering a rare and graceful intersection between two of America's most significant women artists of the era.



Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. 1904

The Wedding

This deeply personal charcoal pencil sketch by Helena De Kay Gilder captures a quiet yet evocative moment from her 1874 wedding to poet and editor Richard Watson Gilder. Depicted in her wedding gown, with Gilder in his signature kimono, the drawing blends elegance with an intimate, bohemian spirit reflective of the couple's shared artistic ideals. With soft shading and delicate linework, the piece stands as a poetic testament to love, partnership, and creative union in 19th-century America.



\$ 50K

Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal Pencil

Date: ca. 1874

Forest Stories

\$ 40K

In *Forest Stories*, Helena De Kay Gilder evokes the quiet magic of woodland life through richly textured charcoal work. The composition suggests figures—real or imagined—nestled within a dense forest, inviting the viewer into a space where nature and narrative intertwine. Gilder's confident use of light and shadow conjures a sense of mystery and storytelling, making this a contemplative and atmospheric example of her mature landscape work.



Artist: Helena de Kay Gilder (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal

Date: ca. 1886

Large Board Charcoal & Pencil Of Dorothea By Cecilia Beaux

This striking large-format board print by Cecilia Beaux features Dorothea Gilder rendered in charcoal and pencil with remarkable grace and precision. A study in composure and elegance, the work showcases Beaux's exceptional draftsmanship and sensitivity to her subjects. The layered textures and subtle tonal variations capture both the sitter's youthful presence and the artist's refined portrait style at the height of her career.

\$ 150K



Artist: Cecilia Beaux (American, 1846-1916)

Medium: Charcoal & Pencil Print

Date: ca. 1894

Walt Whitman

\$ 4K

Artist: Unknown

Medium: Oil

Date: ca. 1890

This late 19th-century oil painting presents a contemplative likeness of American poet Walt Whitman, rendered with a warm, earthy palette and expressive brushwork. Though the artist remains unidentified, the work reflects the era's reverence for Whitman's cultural significance and literary legacy. The portrait's unvarnished realism and quiet dignity resonate with the spirit of Whitman's poetry—rooted in individuality, nature, and the American experience.

The Gilder Family Farm's 19th Century Horse Buggy

\$ 10K



Artist: Hand Made In New York

Medium: Wood & Metal

Date: ca. 1880-1900

This original 19th-century horse buggy, handcrafted in New York, once served the Gilder family farm. Constructed with finely worked wood and forged metal, the buggy reflects the utilitarian elegance of rural transportation during the late Victorian period. A rare surviving artifact, it embodies the craftsmanship and daily rhythms of American farm life at the turn of the century—linking a personal family history to a broader cultural legacy.

The Original Gilded Age Family

The Gilder family stood at the heart of American cultural and intellectual life during the Gilded Age—a time of immense social change, artistic achievement, and political reform. At its center were Richard Watson Gilder, editor of *The Century Magazine* and one of the most influential voices of his time, and Helena de Kay Gilder, a pioneering artist, social reformer, and co-founder of both the Art Students League and the Society of American Artists.



Together, they created a home and legacy that championed the arts, elevated public discourse, and welcomed some of the most important thinkers, writers, and leaders of the 19th century, including Mark Twain, Grover Cleveland, and Saint-Gaudens. Their estate, Four Brooks Farm in Tyngham, Massachusetts, became a summer sanctuary for conversation, creativity, and progress.

Today, the Gilder family's story continues to inspire. Their commitment to art, literature, and civic engagement helped shape the cultural identity of America—and their legacy lives on in the people, institutions, and ideals they influenced.

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