

'Connoisseurs Collection'

Wally Findlay Galleries

Los Angeles

This impressive selection of Impressionist and modern works featured paintings and drawings by more than a few legends, including Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Marc Chagall, Pierre Bonnard, Winslow Homer, and Andrew Wyeth. But just as exciting were the less recognizable pieces that offered notable variety within the show's emphasis on landscapes and city views.

Antoine Blanchard's painting *Place Vendôme* (1963) features a nostalgic take on Paris in 1900—horse-drawn carriages ply the boulevard as men and women in fancy dress stroll on broad sidewalks in the evening twilight. Pierre Dumont's 1907 oil of the cathedral in Rouen, rich with impasto, shows the structure from a peculiar perspective, such that it soars above us even as we look down at small figures standing in front of the facade.

The standout figurative works included Chagall's *Le Cirque* (1942), characteristically energetic and playful, with a woman in pink swinging on a

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trapeze above a clown whose green costume merges with a cow's hindquarters. Renoir brings vitality to a young woman reading a book in his charming charcoal-on-paper-and-board drawing *La Liseuse (Portrait de fillette)*, 1888, by adding a hint of pink and white pastel to her cherubic cheek.

In *Tom's Shed* (1960), a watercolor of startling, almost photographic realism, Wyeth captures in sparse, loose lines a weathered farmhouse that seems as if it might blow away in a harsh wind. The most modern highlight here, a reminder of what we lost when the artist passed away in January, this painting fit comfortably among the impressive achievements from 19th- and 20th-century masters.



Marc Chagall, *Le Cirque*, 1942, watercolor, gouache, and pastel on paper, 15" x 19". Wally Findlay Galleries.

—Richard Chang