

# MODERN ART COLLECTION

**Childe Hassam**

***Gloucester***

1919

Oil on panel

12 5/8 × 16 in. (32.1 × 40.6 cm)

Gift from the Carol and Stephen Shey Collection

2004.41

Born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, Childe Hassam was the son of a hardware merchant who was related to Boston landscape painter William Morris Hunt. Following a brief period of art classes at the Boston Art Club and travel to Europe in 1883, Hassam made plans to study at the Académie Julian in Paris, where he enrolled in 1886–1889. Upon his return to the United States, Hassam settled in New York City and adapted the French style of impressionism to make vivid paintings of distinctly American subjects.

Throughout his long career as an artist, Hassam was drawn to numerous quaint communities on the New England coast, especially Cos Cob and Old Lyme in Connecticut and Gloucester in Massachusetts. Here Hassam joined enclaves of artists who gathered each summer in search of inspiring subject matter and the companionship of other artists. Focusing his creative energies on depicting coastlines, colonial churches, and harbors, Hassam produced some of his most celebrated paintings in these scenic locales. His paintings of coastal towns such as Gloucester and Provincetown in Massachusetts and Newport in Rhode Island were popular among collectors, who greatly admired the visual energy and gorgeous saturation of color and light in his landscapes.

After Hassam purchased his own country home in East Hampton, New York, in 1919, Gloucester was a convenient stopover on his annual summer journeys to Appledore on the Maine coast. This sweeping view of Gloucester and the surrounding harbor exhibits great breadth and complexity, and delicate atmospheric effects. The picture's panoramic viewpoint captures the varied elements—colonial architecture, picturesque setting, bustling harbor—that made this seaport town so appealing to the artist.

