

**“MARIE RESSORT AVEC SES VACHES”
By Roger de la Fresnaye, 1913**



Roger de la Fresnaye (1885-1925) was a French artist who painted in the early 1900's who was considered a disciple of Cubism, but who was not as extreme as Picasso or Braque or other Cubists. As an artist, I am drawn to his colors and slightly geometric drawing. It has a strong flat pattern which carries from a great distance as well as close up. He used intense and bright colors, and his subject matter was more easily identifiable. His medium in this painting was oil on canvas, although he painted an earlier version of it in watercolor. There is another version of it in the Albright Knox Gallery in Buffalo, New York. The Weiner painting which is on loan to the Palm Springs Art Museum is more simplified than other versions of this painting. Marie Ressort was the subject of another painting entitled "The Child Shepherdess Marie Ressort".

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He studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, then at the Academie Ranson, where he worked under Maurice Denis and Paul Serusier.

Other works of de la Fresnaye are in collections at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, New York’s Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, in Toronto, Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, N.Y.

The Weiner painting was previously owned by Ragnar Moltzau, Oslo, Norway, Marlborough Fine Art, London and Galerie des Arts Anciens et Modernes in Zurich. It was acquired by the Weiner Collection in November, 1962.

Although he died at age 40 and had been in poor health prior to his death, he produced enough notable work to be included in many museums throughout Europe and the United States including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Pompidou in Paris, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

His later work transformed into a more linear style than the light Cubism of the Weiner painting now hanging at the Palm Springs Art Museum. He became one of France’s most influential advocates of traditional realism.

It is unfortunate that his health and early death deprived the world of a full lifetime of his work.

Resources: “The Athenaeum”

“A Passionate Eye” by Stephen A. Nash

Encyclopedia Britannica

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