



Peter Hurd, A Portrait Sketch from Life, Signed by Author.

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HURD, PETER (1904-1984). Peter Hurd, painter, son of Harold and Lucy Chew (Knight) Hurd, was born in Roswell, New Mexico, on February 22, 1904. His parents named him Harold Hurd, Jr., but called him Pete, and in his early twenties he legally changed his name to Peter. The elder Hurd came from a prominent Boston family, graduated from Columbia University Law School, and established his legal practice in New York City, but abandoned it to serve in the Spanish-American War as a naval volunteer aboard the armed transport Yankee. A Hurd had fought in every American war, beginning with the French and Indian War. Peter Hurd grew up in Roswell, where his parents settled for health reasons. He studied the United States Cavalry Drill Manual at eleven and learned from his father, a first lieutenant in Battery A of the New Mexico National Guard, how to shoot. Following three years of high school at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, Hurd was accepted as a cadet by the United States Military Academy at West Point. He entered as a plebe in July 1921, at the age of seventeen. Within two years, however, he was disillusioned by the rigors and values of military life and was drawn increasingly to art. In 1923 he resigned from West Point in good standing, with his father's reluctant consent. He transferred to Haverford College, where he studied the liberal arts and devoted himself to painting.

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