



## **Cornelis Botke (1887 - 1954)**

Cornelis Botke was born in Holland in 1887 and graduated from the Haarlem School of Applied Design at age 18. After immigrating to the U.S., he settled in Chicago and continued his studies at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he met art student and future wife Jessie Arms. Cornelis later became an architectural draftsman in that city.

In 1919, the Botkes moved to Carmel, California, and Cornelis taught at Carmel Arts and Crafts. Botke took up etching in the early 1920s, and quickly became one of the most highly esteemed etchers in the country. Following a tour through Europe in 1927, the Botke family ultimately settled on a ranch in Santa Paula where they built a studio they could share. Along with wife Jessie and close friend Douglas Shively, Cornelis helped to establish the Santa Paula Art Show in 1937, which became an annual affair and was the basis for the Santa Paula Civic Collection.

Although known primarily as an etcher and a block printer, Cornelis Botke was also an incredible painter. Cornelis had numerous exhibitions at such prestigious venues as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. His etchings can also be found in prominent collections, including the Library of Congress.