

Time and the Monuments

Eugene Berman (American, born Russia, 1899-1972)

1941

Oil on linen

Portland Art Museum: The John Yeon Collection, Gift of Richard Louis Brown, 2009.31

Yeon encountered Berman's paintings on a trip to the East Coast in 1939 and liked them immediately. Shortly thereafter he commissioned this work for the library of his mother's house in Portland.

Berman was one of the Neo-romantic painters of the 1930s and 40s. *Time and the Monuments* combines Surrealist elements and Italian Baroque depictions of ideal cityscapes. It also reflects Berman's well-known work as a set designer for ballet, theatre, and opera. The artist's inventive use of classical architecture and his preoccupation with balance and proportion were surely among the factors that appealed to Yeon.