

[New England Spring](#) , (circa 2010) by [Mark King](#)
Original Oil on Canvas - Main Subject: Impressionism



Item Number
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Dimensions (As Shown)
30W x 24H Inches
76.2W x 60.96H cm

Medium
Original Oil on Canvas

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About Mark King

Mark King, a champion of Impressionism and the Ecole de Paris, was born in Bombay in 1931 of British parents. He is the product of an exotic and privileged upbringing in India, where he lived until the age of sixteen during the tumultuous last days of the British Raj. In 1948, following graduation from La Martiniere College in Calcutta, where his focus had been on botany as well as art, King sailed to England to attend Bournemouth College of Art, having determined to pursue painting, sculpture, architecture and theatre design. He subsequently spent the next ten years as resident scenic designer at the Oxford Playhouse Theatre, the Bristol Old Vic Theatre and the Scottish National Opera. In 1961 King decided to concentrate on painting and moved to Paris to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and the Louvre.

King has carefully studied the old and modern masters from Cimabue and Masaccio to Goya, Turner, Degas and Bonnard. Fascinated with painting techniques, the chemical composition of colors and how they interact, King admits, "What I am searching for is not so much making a statement, or coming up with something new or different, but having more virtuoso command of my medium. Preparing the foundation consumes most of his time, for King meticulously layers colors, glazes and shapes as substrata for the five or ten percent of the acrylic paint that floats on top and forms the finished composition. The underpainting filters through to the surface creating depth and texture. Because of his alla prima approach, in which a painting is realized in a burst of inspiration and single application of pigments, King confesses, "It is not until the last ten to fifteen minutes before completion that I am able to see where the painting is going and catch the mood of the moment."

King's versatility and zest for life transform everything he paints into strong patterns of brilliant color. His subtle understanding of how color, texture and paint interact is his strength. Color conveys feelings and emotions in the creation of a timeless art.

Original Oil on Canvas

Oil painting is the process of painting with pigments that are bound with a medium of drying oil especially in early modern Europe, linseed oil. Often an oil such as linseed was boiled with a resin such as pine resin or even frankincense; these were called 'varnishes' and were prized for their body and gloss. Other oils occasionally used include poppyseed oil, walnut oil, and safflower oil. These oils confer various properties to the oil paint, such as less yellowing or different drying times. Certain differences are also visible in the sheen of the paints depending on the oil. Painters often use different oils in the same painting depending on specific pigments and effects desired. The paints themselves also develop a particular feel depending on the medium.

Oil paint was first used, as current knowledge shows, in western Afghanistan sometime between the 5th and 9th Centuries. From there its practice likely migrated westward until, when in the Middle Ages, (Theophilus mentions oil media in the 12th Century) it came into use, although not widespread, in Europe. It later became the principal medium used for creating artworks; the transition beginning during the 15th century with Early Netherlandish painting in northern Europe. By the height of the Renaissance oil painting techniques had almost completely replaced tempera paints in the majority of Europe. Oil painting dates in the West to at least ancient Roman times.

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