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Hannah Gluckstein, known as Gluck (London
1895-1978 Steyning, Sussex)

A Cornish Landscape

Signed 'Gluck' (on the reverse)

Oil on panel

4⁷/₈ x 7¹/₈ in. (12.3 x 18.1 cm.)



Provenance

A gift from the artist to Arnold Hunt, the previous owner's father.

Gluck, “No prefix, suffix or quotes”, was born Hannah Gluckstein in 1895 into the wealthy Jewish family that founded Lyons & Co. Studying at St John's Wood School of Art from 1913-1916, she ran away in 1916, from London to Lamorna in Cornwall with her lover, E.M. Craig, and set up a dilapidated cottage amongst a community of artists and writers. Gluck was arguably as famous for her rebellious and bohemian lifestyle and unconventional appearance as for her work. She cropped her hair, accentuating her arresting profile, wore men's clothes, smoked a pipe, and, of course, changed her name. Her 1942 self-portrait, *Gluck* (National Portrait Gallery, London) was the banner image for the Tate Britain's groundbreaking 2017 exhibition, *Queer British Art 1861-1967*. Gluck's self-image is one of unabashed self-assurance and confidence, of queer pride and a forthright statement of difference, and her famous 1936 “YouWe” picture, *Medallion*, a double portrait of herself and her lover Nesta Obermer, was both a public declaration of lesbian love and their marriage picture. As a lesbian, non-gender conforming person in Edwardian England, Gluck's determination and self-belief was, unquestionably, brave. That fearlessness in art and life is deserving of her current rise to renewed prominence.