

This image is from the collection of

MUSKEGON
MUSEUM OF ART



Severin Roesen (American, born Germany, 1815-1872), *Tabletop Still Life*, circa 1850

#muskegonartmuseum

Severin Roesen

(American, born Germany, 1815-1872)

Tabletop Still Life

Oil on canvas, circa 1850

75th Anniversary Acquisition Fund, 75th Anniversary Gala Fund, the Board of Trustees, the Collections Advisory Committee, the Hackley Picture Fund, and the Friends of Art

1989.104

In America after 1850, the growing popularity of fruit and flower pictures led to an increasing number of artists who dedicated their talents to this genre. Severin Roesen was one of the most famous and prolific of the mid-19th-century specialists. Works like *Tabletop Still Life*, with its group of round, ripe fruits, would have been popular in American dining rooms at the time.

Roesen was a supreme colorist with a flair for the dramatic—the fruit is pushed precariously close to and over the edge of the table; stems demand to be grasped for a luscious reward; the elaborate calligraphy of grape tendrils highlights a neutral background. Roesen's still lifes do not sit still! This painting, with its lush abundance was the perfect work of art to purchased in honor of the MMA's 75th anniversary. More than 100 individuals, organizations, and foundations contributed funds for this important acquisition.