



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION



Nellie Gail Moulton (1878 - 1972)

Nellie Maud Gail was born on December 8, 1878 in Irving, Kansas. In 1894, Nellie Gail traveled by horse and buggy as she moved to California at sixteen years old to attend Citrus [Union] High School, located in what is now known as the city of Glendora. Citrus [Union] High School was the first high school built in the San Gabriel Valley, between Covina, Glendora, and Azusa.

Nellie Gail Moulton and her husband established a strong presence in Orange County with sheep and cattle ranching. They also leased land to tenant farmers, positioning themselves as valued members in the community. After his passing, Nellie successfully managed the Moulton Ranch until 1950. Throughout those years after her husband's death, Nellie continued to share her pioneer spirit with the ranching and arts community. Her lifelong love for painting paved the way to great partnerships with various local artists and organizations.

Her en plein air painting techniques were acquired from Southern California notable artists such as William Wendt, Anna Hills, Frank Cuprien, and Edgar Payne. They inspired her impressionist scenes of nature, beach landscapes, Sierra Mountains, Japanese fishing villages, and Grand Canyon majestic vistas. Her sketchbooks contained preliminary drawings of evocative and nuanced oil paintings. As an avid traveler, Nellie Gail viewed the world through her international voyages and captured these moments in her artwork.



Nellie Gail Moulton was an active member of the Laguna Beach Art Association (c. 1940, shown in hat).