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Robert Fishko, *Director*

BEN SHAHN
(1898-1969)

Love Sonnet: I must not think of thee; and, tired yet strong, c. 1972

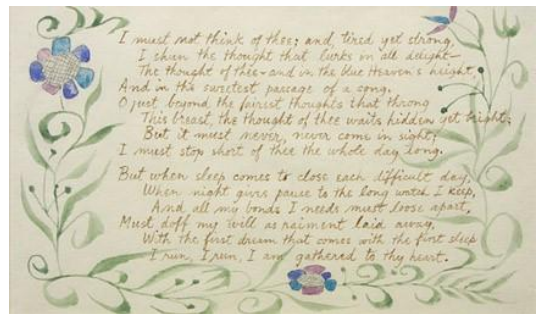
oil graphite, watercolor, gouache and gold leaf
on paper
7 ½ x 12 ¼ inches
signed lower right "Ben Shahn"



Provenance

Estate of Artist
Kennedy Galleries, New York
Forum Gallery, New York

Exhibited



Ben Shahn, November 6 – 27, 1971, Kennedy Galleries, New York

Literature

Ben Shahn (1898-1969), Kennedy Galleries, New York, NY, no. 52, p. 28, Illustrated.

Note

This work is part of a series of original watercolor illustrations for *Love Sonnets*, edited by Louis Untermeyer, illustrated by Ben Shahn for Odyssey Press in 1964. The calligraphy, illuminations, and painting are in Shahn's own hand.

The poem on the verso, titled *Renouncement*, is by Alice Meynell (1847-1922):

"I must not think of thee; and, tired yet strong,/ I shun the thought that lurks in all delight-/ The thought of thee-and in the blue Heaven's height,/And in the sweetest passage for a song./O just beyond the fairest thoughts that throng/ This breast, the thought of thee waits hidden yet bright;/But it must never, never come in sight;/I must stop short of thee the whole day long./But when sleep comes to close each difficult day,/When night gives pause to the long watch I keep,/And all my bonds I need must loose apart,/Must I doff my will as raiment laid way,/With the first dream that comes with the first sleep/I run, I run, I am gathered to thy heart."