

# Paul Cadmus

## Lloyd and Barbara Wescott, 1942

Paul Cadmus (1904-1999)



Tempera on gessoed board

Paul Cadmus's portrait of Lloyd and Barbara Wescott depicts them surrounded by an idyllic, idealized farm scene. The artist's delicate, intricate details, seen in the flora and fauna, farm buildings, and surrounding landscape, blend themes of American Regionalism and Magical Realism. The artist's experience as a master draftsman, who closely studied classical figurative compositions and painting techniques, is reflected in the precision of the work. The central figures casually pose next to their real-life award-winning livestock. Lloyd and Barbara Westcott were friends of Cadmus and often hosted artists on their farm, Mulhocaway, in northwestern New Jersey. Lloyd's brother, Glenway, was a poet and part of the community of artists and queer cultural figures that Cadmus mingled with, including Glenway's partners Monroe Wheeler, the Director of Publications at the Museum of Modern Art, and George Platt Lynes, a photographer. Many works by Cadmus were more outwardly concerned with gritty social commentary and erotic depictions of the male form, but *Lloyd and Barbara Westcott* quietly embeds similar themes, such as the erect masculinity of the stallion, whimsically countered by the dairy heifer at pasture.