

Pavel Tchelitchew

Study for *Fata Morgana*, 1939

Pavel Tchelitchew (1898-1957)

Gouache and watercolor on paper

While summering in Vermont, Tcheltichew created a series of four major paintings he referred to as "a theme and three variations." This was a series of metamorphic landscapes that corresponded to the seasons, containing hidden figures embedded in narrative panoramas. The mountainous landscape depicted in *Fata Morgana* (the title referring to a type if mirage), inspired by the Vermont landscape, writhes with literal allusions to the human form, featuring two nude figures. The series was inspired by an all-encompassing force which Tchelitchew referred to as his governing mistress, "Mrs. Nature." Tchelitchew's embedded images drew on energies that he sensed coursing through both the human and natural worlds.

Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY