

Lionel Walden (American, 1861–1933)

*Volcano*, c. 1915

Oil on canvas

Gift of Frances Damon Holt in memory of John Dominis Holt (7750.1)

Beginning in 1880 and continuing into the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the volcanic eruptions of Mauna Loa and Kilauea on the Island of Hawaii attracted the attention of residents, tourists, and artists. The academically trained painter Lionel Walden is one of many landscapists of the so-called Volcano School, who fed the market for images of the natural spectacle of the volcanoes by capturing their dazzling phenomena—including and especially, as in this example, the nocturnal drama of fiery lava flows, magma lakes, and smoldering craters.

**LIONEL WALDEN**

United States, 1861–1933

***Volcano***, early twentieth century

Oil on canvas

Gift of Frances Damon Holt in memory of  
John Dominis Holt (7750.1)

The volcanic theatrics of Mauna Loa and Kīlauea on the island of Hawai'i attracted the attention of people in Hawai'i, whether they be residents, tourists, or artists. In 1880 the volcanoes entered a period of sustained activity which continued into the first decades of the twentieth century, attracting a steady flow of people who traveled to Hilo and then on to the craters in order to marvel at their pyrotechnic display. Landscapists working in Hawai'i at the time including Jules Tavernier, D. Howard Hitchcock, and Lionel Walden devoted considerable attention to the volcanoes, feeding the market for images of this natural spectacle. They depicted the volcanoes in all their moods, capturing the drama of the fiery pits with molten lava surging by night and lakes of magma glowing at twilight as well as moments of inactivity as the craters quietly smoldered by day.

*see Encounter with Paradise*