The Evolution of Columbus Art

EXHIBITION CATALOG
Exhibition Forward

Columbus has a long, rich history of educating, mentoring, and supporting its artists, whether nationally celebrated or regionally respected artists of exceptional ability in the varied media of painting, watercolors, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and textiles. This was true in the late 19th and early 20th century, which is the focus of this exhibition of historic Columbus artists.

In 1920, Ohio was the fourth most populous state in the country. It was among the most prominent states economically and politically. By the early 1920s, Ohio had as many art museums as any state with the exception of New York. There were fine museums in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Dayton, Youngstown, and Akron. The Canton Museum of Art would follow in 1935 and many others since then. Many of these museums had art schools associated with them.

In 1876, Columbus was the first city to have an art museum register its charter with the State of Ohio. The Columbus Art School was established in 1879. By 1940, hundreds of talented artists had been educated there. These artists included Alice Schille, Harriet Kirkpatrick, August Lundberg, Carl Springer, May Elizabeth Cook, James Hopkins, Edna Hopkins, Lucius Kutchin and Ray Kinsman-Waters. That institution continues today, as the independent Columbus College of Art and Design, and it educates a new generation of technologically infused artists.

The Ohio State University Fine Arts department began in 1898 and was led by James Hopkins from 1924 until 1948. Previously, he assisted and then led the prestigious Cincinnati Art Academy from 1914-1923. Nationally and internationally recognized artists such as George Bellows, James Hopkins, and later, Milton Caniff and Roy Lichtenstein were educated there and elsewhere. Bellows was taught by the nationally respected still-life and portrait artist Silas Martin, while at Ohio State. He was mentored and encouraged by his English professor and art instructor, Joseph Taylor, to pursue his artistic dreams in New York under the outstanding teacher and artist Robert Henri. Henri helped lay the foundation for Bellows's fantastic accomplishments as a painter, lithographer, illustrator, and social and artistic progressive. Bellows was an enthusiastic supporter of the revolutionary Armory Show and helped to design and literally install much of it in New York.

The Columbus Art League (now, Ohio Art League) is another outstanding arts organization founded by artists in this city in 1909 to celebrate their abilities and show their work regularly to the public, often at the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts (Columbus Museum of Art). A legion of loyal, energetic, talented artists were members of this fine organization including Alice Schille, Lucius Kutchin, Yetive Smith, Robert Chadeayne, Harriet Kirkpatrick, Ray Kinsman-Waters, and Emerson Burkhart. Additionally, the Columbus Pen and Pencil Club, founded by Bellows enthusiast, the artist August Lundberg, also supported these artists for decades.

Art galleries that were helpful in exhibiting, encouraging, and marketing these artists' work in the early twentieth century include the Little Art Gallery, Green Joyce Studios, Glidden Gallery and others. The nationally respected and elite restaurant, the Maramor, also showed Alice Schille's watercolors regularly to visitors from throughout the United States, including Gertrude Stein. The fine arts exposition at the Ohio State Fair was often judged by nationally recognized jurors. This helped focus attention by the public and art enthusiasts upon artists active in the region and throughout the state.

Columbus' economic strength, educational leadership, museum support, fervent artist led clubs, and dedicated gallery owners provided much of the needed aesthetic and financial nourishment needed by Columbus artists to thrive here and beyond. Fine and knowledgeable writers for the local newspapers, such as Lucius Kutchin, Gloria Reeder, Cornelia Moore James, Harriet Kirkpatrick and even James Thurber were indispensable in educating and encouraging the public to support their artists.

I hope you will enjoy the fine exhibition that David Terry and Fred Fochtman has curated for the Columbus Historical Society.

Tim Keny
John G Keller (20th century)
Oil on Panel: “Pipe on Letter”
Columbus Connection: John G. Keller was active/lived in Ohio.
Albert Fauley (1859 - 1919)

Oil on Canvas: “Cherry Blossom”

Fauley was a portrait, coastal landscape painter and teacher. He was born in 1859 in Fultonham, Muskingum County, Ohio. He received early instruction in Philadelphia under Christian Schussele. He operated a photography studio in Zanesville, where he specialized in enlarged crayon portraits.

He studied at the Académie Julian in Paris with Gustave Boulanger and Benjamin Constant from 1888-94.

Columbus Connection: From 1898 to 1910, he taught at the Columbus Art School, and from 1912 to 1917, at the Columbus School for Girls. His portraits of Ohio governors James E. Campbell, William McKinley, and Asa S. Bushnell are in the Ohio Statehouse collection.
Albert Fauley (1859 - 1919)
Oil on Canvas: “Portrait of William Green Deshler”

William Walcutt (1819 - 1882)
Oil on Canvas: “Portrait of Wilhelmina F. Frankenberg, of Columbus (1787-1863)”

Born in Columbus, Ohio and died in New York City. He studied surveying and engineering.
Began his career as a painter of portraits at the age of sixteen. He studied in London in 1852, followed by two years in Paris. Walcutt's papers are at the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution. On September 10, 1860, his most famous work, a statue he designed of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry was dedicated at Cleveland, Ohio.

Columbus Connection: Student at Granville College, which was renamed Denison University. His grandfather William Walcutt came Central Ohio, settling on Walcutt's Hill in what is now Grandview Heights. His mother, Mariel Broderick, came to Frankfort with Lucas Sullivant in 1797, and was a cousin of Davy Crockett. One of his brothers, Charles C. Walcutt, was twice elected mayor of Columbus.

On loan from James Brodbelt Harris, Besley, Ohio
Silas Martín (1841 - 1906)
Oil on Canvas: "Olentangy River"

Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1841. He specialized in portraits, landscapes and still-life. Silas Martín studied with artist John Witt. He painted portraiture of McKinley, Kirker and many other personalities. Silas Martín died in Columbus in 1906.

Columbus Connection: He was the first teacher of George Bellows in Columbus while at The Ohio State University (1898-1900), before Bellows departed for New York City.

Silas Martín (1841 - 1906)
Graphite: "Victor Hugo"
George Bellows (1882 -1925)

Pencil Drawing: “Little Girl”

Born in Columbus, Ohio, George Bellows was a major American artist of the early 20th century, known for his paintings of boxing match figures and for his lithographs of his paintings. He was an instructor in New York at the Art Students League and at the Art Institute of Chicago. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1903 and then attended the New York School of Art where he studied with Robert Henri, Kenneth Hayes Miller, and Hardesty Gilmore Maratta. Henri inspired him to treat urban subjects in a realist, painterly manner. Between 1906 and 1913, he produced a number of scenes from New York life that defined his fine arts career. In 1908, he won a prize at the annual show at the National Academy of Design. Bellows also worked as a newspaper and magazine illustrator.

In 1920, he settled in Woodstock, New York where he purchased property next to his good friend Eugene Speicher and lived during the summers until his early death from a ruptured appendix.

Columbus Connection: George Bellows was born in Columbus, Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University in 1903.

George Bellows (1882 -1925)

Lithograph: “In the Elevator”
Alice Schille, (1869 - 1955)

Watercolor: "Southwest Scene"
Modernist, abstract town-sea-landscape & portrait painting. Born & died in Columbus, Ohio, interred in Green Lawn Cemetery. Born to wealth, she traveled North and South America, Europe, and Africa, to develop her painting techniques. Considered one of America's foremost women watercolorists, she earned international recognition for her fine Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings of street scenes, beaches, markets, as well as women and children. Graduated from Central High School, attended the Columbus Art School (which later became the Columbus College of Art and Design) graduating at the top of her class in 1893, Schille continued her studies in New York and Paris.

Columbus Connection: Taught watercolor and portrait painting at Columbus Art School for forty years. Her influence, impact and legacy as teacher and artist can be seen in the works of her many students.

"She was one of the first artists to effectively bring many modern artistic concepts directly from France to the Midwest. As an instructor at the Columbus Art School and the doyenne of Columbus artists, Alice helped to broaden the tastes and enrich the artistic vocabulary of Columbus at a time when the community was distrustful of modern art."

Leslie Blankenship

Oil on Canvas: "Frank Constans"
Lucius Brown Kutchin (1904 – 1936)

Oil on Canvas: "Still Life"

Mural and portrait painter. Active in Columbus and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Author.

Columbus Connection: Born and died in Columbus.
Edward Parker Hayden (1858 – 1922)
Oil on canvas: “Across the Dunes”
Columbus Connection: Grew up in Columbus working for his uncle, wealthy industrialist Peter Hayden. Taught many early Columbus artists in his School of Nature Painting (mid 1880s).
James Roy Hopkins (1877 - 1969)

Oil on Canvas: “The Gypsy”

Born in the rural farming community of Irwin, Ohio in 1877. His mother painted with watercolors recreationally and encouraged her son’s artistic interests. He initially entered Ohio State University in 1896 to study electrical engineering. However, he soon left and briefly enrolled in the Columbus School of Art before going to the Art Academy of Cincinnati where he studied with Frank Duveen. In 1900, Hopkins moved to New York City and worked as a medical textbook illustrator. Two years later he studied in Paris. He was known for a series of paintings of the Cumberland Mountain people of eastern Kentucky. He died in 1969 at the age of ninety-one on the family farm in Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

Columbus Connection: James Hopkins served as Chairman of the Art Department at Ohio State University for 25 years before retiring to his family’s farm in Mechanicsburg in 1947.
August Lundberg (1878 - 1928)
Oil on Panel: “Gahanna Lights”
Known for landscape, figures, portrait and genre, scenic painting. August Lundberg was a Danish artist trained at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen.
Columbus Connection: In 1994, he went to Columbus, Ohio, where he was founder of the Columbus Pen and Pencil Club and a member of the Columbus Art League. His work is represented in the Columbus Museum of Art.

Frederick Machtanz (1908 – 2002)
Oil on Panel: 1929 OSU Program Cover
Columbus Connection: Ohio State University student. Awarded an honorary doctorate.
Edna Boies Hopkins (1872 - 1937)

Woodcut: “Purple Asters”

Known for floral-botanic woodblocks, landscape painting. Born in 1872 in Hudson, Michigan of a well-to-do family. In 1895, she attended the Art Academy of Cincinnati in Ohio; and in 1899, Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, studying with Arthur Wesley Dow the technique of Japanese woodblocks. She married James R. Hopkins, later to be a well-known portrait and figure painter in 1904.

Columbus Connection: Edna and James lived in Paris until the outbreak of World War I when they returned to the United States and settled in Columbus, Ohio where James was Chairman of the Art Department at The Ohio State University.

Nellie Ziegler (1874 - 1948)

Oil on Canvas: “Street Fair”

Nellie Ziegler is known for landscape, urban views. Nellie Evelyn Ziegler was born in Columbus, OH on Aug. 13, 1874. After studying art in Philadelphia and France, Ziegler settled in Pasadena in the early 1920s. A spinster, she died there on June 27, 1948.

Columbus Connection: Born in Columbus and died in Pasadena. She is interred in Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus.
Erwin Frey: (1892-1967)

Plaster Sculpture: “Writing, Reading, Arithmetic”

Frey was born in Lima, Ohio. Erwin Frey is known for allegorical figure sculpture, teaching. Frey studied at Lima College, then began his sculpture studies with Ohio sculpture Clement Barnhorn at the Cincinnati Art Academy. While in Cincinnati he worked at the Rookwood Pottery Company. He moved the New York where he studied at the Beaux Arts Institute of Design and at the Art Students League with James Earle Fraser. Frey moved to Paris, and studied at the Julian Academy with Henri Bouchard and Paul Landowski.

Columbus Connection: Frey returned to Columbus in 1923 to accept a position at the Columbus Art School. Frey was “Sculptor-in-residence” and a professor at The Ohio State University from 1925 to 1961. In 1950 he was awarded the Joseph Sullivant Medal, Ohio State’s highest faculty award. At that time, Frey, as well as his student Charles A. Cour, were the only artists to receive this award.
Yettee Smith (1888 - 1975)

Oil on Panel: “Market Scene”

Known for modern portrait, landscape, still life, and animal painting. She developed her reputation based on her figure paintings and portraits, along with a modern style of vivid color and strong, simplified form.

Columbus Connection: Born in Columbus, she studied at The Ohio State University. Smith was a member of the Columbus Art League, where she won several prizes in the late 1920s, and the Ohio Watercolor Society.

Howard Wilber Thomas (1899 - 1971)

Oil on Panel: “Athens, Ohio”

Howard Thomas is known for modernist townscape and landscape painting, teaching, printmaking. Born in Mount Pleasant, Ohio to a Quaker family. In 1942, he moved permanently to the South and passed away in North Carolina.

Columbus Connection: He studied at The Ohio State University. He was a student of George Bellows.
(Opposite Page)

Maurice Hague (1862-1943)

Oil on Canvas: "Nocturne"

Known for landscape and portrait painter. Born Richmond, Ohio, May 12, 1862. Died Columbus, Ohio, February 3, 1943. Hague was taught at the Columbus Nature School of Painters with Edward Parker Hayden. Hague also attended medical school for three years.

Columbus Connection: From 1900-1901 Hague taught at Columbus Public Schools.

Maurice Hague (1862-1943)

Oil on Canvas: "Pastoral"
Conn Baker (1870 – 1944)

Oil on Canvas

Landscape painter. Born Toledo, Ohio. Died Columbus, Ohio. Athlete, daredevil, and artist. Held several world records for bicycle racing. First to perfect the “loop-the-loop” on a bicycle. Purchased the 1805 David Beers log cabin.

Columbus Connection: Lived in Columbus.
Will Rannells (1892 – 1982)
Pastel: “Dog Portrait”
Painter of dogs and other animals. Born Caldwell, Ohio. Died Westerville, Ohio. Dog portraits appeared on the covers of Life, McCall’s, and Judge. Illustrated many books. Produced annual dog calendar for over 40 years.

Columbus Connection: Professor of Commercial Art at Ohio State University for 35 years. Founder of Columbus Humane Society.
**Joseph Russell Taylor (1892 to 1932)**

Watercolor: “Our Rooms”

A widely published poet and watercolor painter.

Columbus Connection: He was an English Professor at The Ohio State University. James Thurber named Taylor one of his three most important teachers. His students also included George Bellows; whose obituary Taylor wrote for the Alumni Monthly. Taylor was also one of Ohio State’s early instructors in art. George Bellows painted his portrait titled “Portrait of Professor Joseph Russell Taylor.”

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**Harriet Dunn Campbell (1873 - 1959)**

Oil on Panel: “Ship at Sea”

Known for landscapes, sculptor. Active in Ohio & Kansas.

Columbus Connection: Exhibited at The Columbus Museum of Art. Interred in Green Lawn Cemetery.
Carl Springer (1874 - 1935)
Oil on Panel: “Snow Scene”
Carl Springer is known for landscape-snow scene. He was influenced by the New Hope School of landscape painting in Pennsylvania. Springer practiced a form of painterly realism that was very popular in the teens to thirties - it was seen as a distinctly American celebration of the native landscape.
Columbus Connection: Carl Springer frequently exhibited at the Columbus Art League.
Alfred Goldstein Tibor (1920 - 2017)

“Maquette for Celebration of Life”

The original resides along the river in Downtown Columbus outside the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. Born in Hungary, was denied a spot on the Hungarian Olympic team due to his religion, forced to be a slave laborer for a Hungarian Army. Captured by the Soviet Army, spent six years as a prisoner in a Siberian prison camp. Only he and one brother survived the Holocaust. Changed their last name to Tibor to honor their older brother who perished.

He emigrated to the United States in 1957, and worked as a commercial artist in Miami for 16 years until moving to Columbus, to pursue sculpture full-time. He believed he survived so he could create art to capture and evoke human emotions. “Art for art’s sake is not enough,” he had said.

Columbus Connection: Worked as a commercial artist (advertising director) for the Schottenstein family and Value City Corporation. In 1978, he began his career as a sculptor, among the locations of his statues are Battelle Riverfront Park and the Ohio Governor’s mansion. He represented Columbus in the Ameriflora Exhibition. On January 25, 2006, a deer burst through Tibor’s living room window in Bexley and attacked him, resulting in his hospitalization. Tibor died on March 18, 2017, aged 97.

Elijah Pierce (1892 - 1984)

Bas Relief Carving: "Lena Horne"

Folk-art carver of bas reliefs. The youngest son of a former slave, Elijah born in Baldwyn, Mississippi into a religious family. He began carving at an early age when his father gave him his first pocketknife. He enjoyed giving away his carvings to the kids in school and began a lifelong practice of giving away his carved pieces to people. Created works that are considered to be among the most important American folk carvings* of the 20th Century. Pierce’s carvings are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and The Columbus Museum of Art.

Columbus Connection: Settled in Columbus, Ohio where he ran his barbershop that had two rooms—one for the barber customers and one for displaying his carving. He became a minister while continuing to carve and barber.
Robert Chadeayne (1897 - 1981)

Oil on Canvas: “Downtown from the West”

Robert Osborn Chadeayne was born in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York. He was friends with Edward Hopper (American 1882 – 1967) and John Marin (American 1870 – 1953) both artists. He attended the Art Students League in New York City under the tutelage of Ashcan artists John Sloan and George Luks. George Bellows frequently provided criticism to Chadeayne’s class. While at the ASL, he became a close friend of classmate Alexander Calder (American 1898 – 1976), a friendship that would last a lifetime. After his studies at the Art Student League, Chadeayne taught at Newburgh, New York.

Columbus Connection: He was the head of the Drawing and Painting Department of the Columbus (Ohio) Art School. He subsequently taught painting at Ohio State University and retired from there to paint full time.

Robert Chadeayne (1897 - 1981)

Oil on Canvas: “Loading Boxcars”
Ralph Fanning (1889 - 1971)

Watercolors: “Fairmont Butter”

Painter, architect, educator. Born & Died, Long Island, New York. As a Quaker, served in France in compassionate non-military service during World War I. He had Master's Degrees in both History and Architecture from the University of Illinois.

Columbus Connection: In the 1920s, he joined The Ohio State University Art Department, becoming a full professor in 1924 of American and European art history at Ohio State University and served in that capacity for 37 years. Fanning sketched and painted numerous buildings in Columbus, at Ohio State recording life on campus in watercolors and throughout Ohio.

Ralph Fanning (1889 - 1971)

Watercolors: “Furnas Ice Cream”
Dudley Fisher (1890 - 1951)

Nationally syndicated cartoonist for the Columbus Dispatch. Studied at the Ohio State University.
Comic strips included Jolly Jingles, Right Around Town, and Myrtle.
Columbus Connection: Born, lived and worked in Columbus.
Ray Evans (1887 - 1954)
Ink on Paper. 1952 Editorial Cartoon.
Studied at The Ohio State University. Advertising artist and cartoonist. Worked at the Dayton Daily News, Baltimore American, the Baltimore News, then the Columbus Dispatch. Became chief cartoonist for the Dispatch in 1940s. During WWII produced propaganda for the U.S. government and the Red Cross.
Columbus Connection: Born, lived and worked in Columbus.

Al Getchell (20th Century)
Editorial cartoonist for the Columbus Citizen Journal.
Columbus Connection: Lifelong Central Ohio Resident.
William “Billy” Ireland (1880 – 1935)

Political Cartoon: “Probably a Slight Skip in the Hopple Tube”

Known for illustration, A native of Chillicothe, Ohio, was a self-taught cartoonist. Hired by The Columbus Dispatch shortly after his 1898 high school graduation. He was a Columbus celebrity during his lifetime. He enjoyed a national reputation.

Columbus Connection: Formerly known as the Cartoon Research Library and the Cartoon Library & Museum, the museum was renamed The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum after him in 2009. Until his death, Ireland worked in Columbus for the Dispatch, drawing both editorial cartoons and his Sunday feature, The Passing Show.

William “Billy” Ireland (1880 – 1935)

Political Cartoon: “Which Way to Recovery?”
(Below)
Smoky Brown (1919-2005)

Brown, born in 1919 in Dayton. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps. in World War II, was employed by General Motors for 28 years and worked various odd jobs as a cartoonist, stone carver, muralist and sign painter. Many of his works reflect his religious faith, particularly after he struggled with alcoholism. He used humor, exaggeration and whimsy, and surreal images to make his point. As an outsider artist, Brown offered insightful reflections on social and cultural issues, pointing out human quirks, foibles and vulnerabilities with passion and power.

Columbus Connection: Brown had moved to Columbus in 1976 to begin life as a full-time artist and community service volunteer. Once in Columbus, he would wage his final battle in a life-long war with drug and alcohol dependency, eventually laying those demons for good by the early 1980s. He went through a lengthy rehab at Riverside Hospital and then moved to the halfway house, Metropolitan Hall. One of his ways of giving back to Metropolitan Hall was to paint the walls with his stunning murals.

(Above)
Charles A. Owens (1922-1997)

Acrylic on Wood: “Bridge to Freedom”

Charles Owens is known for folk paintings. Painted historical and religious scenes. Charlie said the first painting he ever made was a “full color map of the United States” that won him a fifty-dollar prize in a school competition when he was just six or seven years old.

Columbus Connection: Born in Kentucky, moved to Columbus as a young man.
Barbara Chavous (1936 - 2008)

Wooden Sculpture: "The Sea"

A graduate of Columbus East High and Central State University, she taught in the New York City Public School System for 10 years before returning home to Columbus. Barbara was noted for her sculpting called Jazz Totems, tall layered-wood pieces that frequently used found objects and recycled materials.

Columbus Connection: Upon her return to Columbus, Barbara became an integral part of the Ohio artistic community through mentoring; serving as Artist-in-Residence in various colleges and universities. Her work can be seen at Bicentennial Park, Kwanzaa Playground, the Columbus Main Library.
SIDNEY CHAFETZ (1922 – 2013)

Watercolor


SIDNEY CHAFETZ (1922 – 2013)

Etching: “Debussy”
Charles Hall (1952-2002)
Oil on Linen: “S.G.” 2000
Columbus Connection: Professor of Fine Art at Columbus College of Art and Design.

(Opposite Page)
Reverend L.M. Phillips
Oil on Canvas: “Central Market”
Columbus Connection: Among his approximate 200 paintings, many of historic Columbus buildings.

Reverend L.M. Phillips
Oil on Canvas: “Union Station”
Reverend L.M. Phillips
Oil on Canvas: "Union Station"
Columbus Connection: Columbus Minister
Dean Purdy Close (1905 - 1992)
Oil on Panel: "Ohio Village"
Born in Columbus, Ohio. Known for landscape painting—mountain and desert scenes. Exhibitions were at the Columbus Gallery of Fine Art 1937-38, 1940 (prize), 1941-46, and Butler Art Institute. Dean Close painted America with particular emphasis on the hill country of his native Ohio. His numerous trips to the West Coast and lengthy stays in the western mountain and desert areas added significantly to his realm of subject matter.
Columbus Connection: He studied with C.M. Duvall; Ohio State University. He was a member of the Columbus Artist League and Pen and Pencil Club.

Paul-Henri Bourguignon (1906 – 1988)
Gouache on Paper
Donald Lawrence Dodrill (1922-2017)
Watercolor: "Farm Scene"
Born in Delaware County. Don served the U.S. Army during World War II. He deployed to the Panama Canal Zone where he painted his first watercolor. In 1946 attended Ohio State University.

Columbus Connection: Don graduated from OSU with a BA in Fine Arts and launched a career in commercial art and advertising. From 1954-1999, Don and his wife, Win, were business partners in the commercial art and advertising studio, Dodrill Design. Don received his MFA degree in illustration from Syracuse University. He taught graphic design part time at Capital University and was the Director of Windon Art Gallery which Win managed. Don was a charter member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and a lifetime member of the Central Ohio Watercolor Society. Don painted well over 1,000 watercolor paintings including commissions. He passed away in Upper Arlington.

Leland McEldick 1914-2002
Watercolor: "Farm Scene"
Born in Columbus on May 23, 1914. Watercolors of Columbus Scenes and rural settings. Well-known as a watercolorist, his first ambition was to be a cartoonist, Graduate of East High School and attended Ohio State later transferring to the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. Self-taught watercolorist. A prolific artist, he completed three paintings a week for twenty-five years prior to retiring in 1994. His paintings are in the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art, Capital University's Schumacher Gallery, the Zanesville Art Institute as well as in the homes of many central Ohioans. He taught 16 years at the Columbus College of Art and Design. “From the time I was old enough to read the funny papers I wanted to be a cartoonist on the Columbus Citizen. I didn’t want to be on the Chicago Tribune or any other big paper – just the Citizen. I’ll always consider myself a cartoonist first and something else second.”

Columbus Connection: He was a founder of the Beasley Area Art Guild, the Central Ohio Watercolor Society and served for ten years as Director of Fine Arts at the Ohio State Fair.
Robert King (1915 – 2001)

Pastel on Paper: "Columbus Street Scene"

BFA (1938) and MA (1941) from The Ohio State University. Further studies in Europe. Body of work in a variety of styles and media. Numerous exhibitions including Columbus Museum of Art (1950).

Columbus Connection: Taught art at The Ohio State University from 1945 to 1978.

Bill Arter (20th Century)

Watercolor: University Hall

He died Tuesday, March 7, 1972. His recorded age was 60. He painted watercolors of buildings throughout central Ohio. From 1964-1971 his talents as writer/illustrator and his passion for researching and exploring old houses were combined in weekly articles, which eventually became four hardbound volumes. In 1975 the articles about locations in Worthington were published in a separate volume entitled "Worthington Vignettes." In the 1950s Arter was published in the Dispatch in features on diverse Ohio subjects from the interurban, the Binnernetts family, Ohio artist David Blythe, to Edgar Mix, world famous balloonist. Arter was Creative Director and Vice President of an advertising firm and teacher at O.S.U. and Ohio Wesleyan.

Columbus Connection: Worthington resident Bill Arter wrote and illustrated the stories of many Columbus and Ohio landmarks in the Columbus Dispatch Magazine in his weekly feature "Columbus Vignettes."
Roman Johnson (1917 - 2005)
Oil on Canvas: “Faces”

Roman Johnson was born and raised in Columbus. He was a sickly child who was encouraged by his mother to draw. He studied painting with African-American artist Cletus Butler. In 1941 he met Emerson Burkhart who influenced him greatly. In 1946 he traveled to New York to study at the Art Students League where he spent ten years, followed by a year in Paris before returning to Columbus. While in New York, Johnson studied under Edwin Dickinson and Ernest Fiene, and exhibited works at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the National Academy of Design.

“I do paintings in an effort to enhance or continue the culture of Black people. In the 40s and 50s when I visited the Museum of Modern Art in New York, I never saw any art by or about Blacks. So, I decided to do that.”

Johnson received an Honorary Doctorate of Arts Degree from Ohio Dominican College in 1998, and in 2003 was bestowed with the Ohio Governor’s Award for the Arts.

Columbus Connection: Burkhart and Johnson worked together painting scenes of Eastside Columbus, Ohio. Burkhart painted his iconic portrait of Roman Johnson entitled The Confused Process of Becoming (1946; collection of Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio).

Nolan Pennell (1894-1972)
Oil on Canvas: “Christmas Tree Lot”

Nolan Pennell is known for landscape and sign painting. Nolan Pennell was born in Laureohville, Ohio, where he got his start as a sign painter. Later he left Ohio for Chicago and New York where he spent his time perfecting his skills as an artist.

Columbus Connection: In 1927, Pennell returned to Columbus, specifically the German Village district where he continued his career as a sign painter and independent artist.
Stanley Twardowicz (1917 - 2008)

Oil on Canvas: “Abstract”


Columbus Connection: Since holding a one-man show at the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts in 1948, he won first awards in many Ohio exhibitions.

Stanley Twardowicz (1917 - 2008)

Photo: Portrait of Lichtenstein"
James Thurber (1894 - 1961)
Ink on Paper: "Play Post Office"
Cartoonist, author, humorist, journalist, playwright. This is the 125th anniversary of his birth. A long-time cartoonist for “The New Yorker” magazine, he became one of America’s best-known illustrators in the first half of the 20th century. He was born and grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and attended Ohio State University. At Ohio State he became the editor of both The Lantern and The Sun Dial. In his senior year, he left to become a code clerk in the State Department during World War I in Washington D.C. and later in the Paris Embassy. After the War, he worked as a newspaper reporter for publications including the "Columbus Dispatch," the "Paris Tribune," and the "New York Evening Post."
He lost the sight in one eye in a childhood accident playing a game of William Tell with one of his brothers. In later life, his failing eyesight required that he use a Zeiss loupe in order to continue drawing and drew his cartoons on very large sheets of paper using a thick black crayon.
Columbus Connection: From 1913 to 1918, Thurber attended Ohio State University. His family rented the house on 77 Jefferson Avenue, which became The Thurber House in 1984. In 1995, Gordon Gee awarded Thurber a posthumous degree, the first in the university’s history.
Hoyt Leon Sherman (1903 - 1981)

Oil on Canvas: "Landscape"

Known for landscape painting, graphics, design. As a professor in Fine Arts at Ohio State University, he employed the "flash room", a darkened room where images would be briefly flashed onto the screen. His students were then to draw what they had seen. This method of grasping an image by copying it would later be cited by Lichtenstein as having had an influence on his work. His research and methods were used during World War 2 to teach pilots and gunners to quickly identify aircraft as friendly or enemy and to identify targets for bombing.

Columbus Connection: Born in Alabama, moved to Columbus. Taught at The Ohio State University. Lichtenstein was one of his students during the forties. In 1963 he received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching from Ohio State University. A building in his name, The Hoyt L. Sherman Studio Art Center, was endowed by Roy Lichtenstein in the 1990s.

Virginia Thurman Cole (1871-1953)

Oil on Canvas: "Tiger Lilies"

Painter.

Columbus Connection: Born in 11 Jun 1871 and died in 21 May 1953 Columbus, Ohio. Buried in Green Lawn Cemetery.
Charles William Duvall (1864 - 1966)
Oil on Panel: “Sunset at Point Creek”
Duvall was born on a farm near Gallipolis, Ohio. By 1889 the family had moved to Columbus, Ohio. He studied art for ten years with Edward Parker Hayden before touring the art centers of Europe. He returned to settle in Columbus. Here he spent the remainder of his life teaching and painting. He wrote: “Art is an expression of life. Teaching makes a student out of the teacher. Be a student all your life. See life, study life, try to interpret the vitality of life.”
Columbus Connection: Considered by many, at the time of his death, to be the dean of Columbus, Ohio artists. DuVall maintained a studio at 101 N. High Street until shortly before his death on February 21, 1966 at the age of 101. His work is in the permanent collection of the Columbus Museum of Art.
Ray Kinsman-Waters (1887 - 1962)
Oil on Panel: “Canal Winchester”
Known as a painter, craftsman and teacher.
Columbus Connection: Born in Columbus. A Student of Anne Schille at The Columbus Art School. Died in Columbus.

Mabel De Bra King (1895 - 1950)
Watercolor: “Figures in Tropical Landscape”
Known for watercolors, and as a muralist, printmaker, writer. She depicted her travels in Europe, Labrador and Mexico in her paintings
Columbus Connection: She graduated from The Ohio State University in 1918, attended Columbia University and received a Master's degree from Yale. She was a member of the faculty at Ohio Wesleyan University, prior to joining the fine arts faculty at OSU. She resigned her post in 1933 to devote her time to painting. She died in Columbus, Ohio and is interred in Union Cemetery.
Carolyn Gertrude Bradley (1898 - 1954)

Columbus Connection: Student of Alice Schille

Harriet Rhoades Kirkpatrick (1877 - 1962)

Watercolor: “Village Scene”

Landscape, marine and figure painting, educator. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Harriet Kirkpatrick graduated from Columbus Central High School, earned an associate degree in education from the Columbus Normal School. Studied at Columbus Art School graduating with Alice Schille. Her work is known for its vivid color, variety of styles and diversified subjects. Her work gained national recognition and was widely exhibited with honors.
Columbus Connection: In 1921, Harriet Kirkpatrick, head of the art department at the Columbus School for Girls, founded the Ohio State Fair art show, an important annual showing for local artists.
Emerson Burkhart (1905 - 1969)

Known for: modernist town-landscape and figure painting, social realism. Born near Kalida, Ohio in 1905. As a youngsters, he was given his first art lessons by a local minister. He studied at the Art Students League, and went to Provincetown where he was taught by Charles Hawthorne. He was primarily an American Scene painter, although he painted in both impressionist and post-impressionist styles. He documented African-American Life in Columbus. Burkhart created paintings depicting his disdain for wretched excess and our evolution to a disposable society. He was concerned with the human condition.

Columbus Connection: He taught at the Columbus, Ohio School of Art and was an early member of the Ohio Art League. Burkhart feuded with the leaders of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts. During the course of his life, Burkhart never had an opportunity to have a one-man exhibition at the Gallery where ironically, his memorial service was held. One year after his passing, they held a major exhibition of his work. Burkhart will be remembered not only for the quality of his work, but for his personality. He was cantankerous, opinionated, thoughtful and most notably, quotable. He was a favorite of the media.
Emerson Burkhart (1905 - 1969)

Oil on Panel: "Olde Town East"

Emerson Burkhart (1905 - 1969)

Oil on Panel: "Redbird Stadium"
Emerson Burkhart (1905 - 1969)
Watercolor: "Broad and High"

Emerson Burkhart (1905 - 1969)
Watercolor: "Self Portrait"
Dennison W. Griffith (1952 - 2015)
Encaustic on Panel: “Abstract”
Denny was born in Delaware, Ohio, on Oct. 22, 1952. Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University. He served as the third president of CCAD (Columbus College of Art & Design) for 16 years, from May 1998, retiring in 2014.
Columbus Connection: He worked at the Columbus Museum of Art in several capacities including Deputy Director. He established the Griffith Faculty Excellence Fund as his legacy to support in perpetuity the good work of the faculty at CCAD.

Mark Russell (1880 - 1967)
Watercolor: “Floral”
Known for painting, designer, illustrator, teacher. Primarily noted for his work in stained glass window design.
Columbus Connection: He designed stained glass windows for the Broad Street Presbyterian Church and murals in the LeVeque Tower. Russell taught at the Columbus Art School, now the Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD), for 21 years and at the Columbus School for Girls. He lived in Worthington at 5807 N. High Street which was purchased in 1919 until his death in 1967. He and his wife, Mary, also purchased three acres of land surrounded the house, populated the property with gardens, and named it Green Gables. Unfortunately, the elaborate gardens no longer exist at the site.
Martin Tischler (1911–1987)
Woodcarvings: "Walking Man," "Sitting Man," "Nude"
Painter, Wood Carver.
Columbus connection: Lived in Columbus.
Martin Tischler (1911–1987)

Watercolor: "Abstract Landscape"
Painter, Wood Carver.
Columbus Connection: Lived in Columbus.
Doti Lipetz (1922 – 2017)
Black & White Woodcut: “Crosswalk”


Columbus Connection: Retrospective of her Work at the Ohio State University Faculty Club (2019).
Levent Isik (1961 - 2019)

Enamel on Wood: “Cat”

Born in Istanbul, Isik was raised in Montreal and lived in Akron and Cleveland before moving to Columbus in the late 1980s. He painted on scraps of plywood, or wood from old barns, or discarded cabinets. His paintings are of animals and people; often illustrative of scenes and situations. They are brightly colored, filled with patterns, and glazed with polyurethane for a high gloss.

Columbus Connection: Isik took up painting in Columbus, “out of sheer boredom.”

Theresa (Teri) Ellen Russell (1949-2006)

Pastel: “Belle”

When her daughter was born, Terry stayed home and began to paint for a career.

Columbus Connection: Terry focused most of her painting on animal portraits. She actually used her painting talents to benefit various animal causes, including the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Capital Area Humane Society where she also was active as a board member for both organizations.
Ned Moore (1928-2019)

Watercolor: "Beach Scene"

Drawing, sketching and watercolor painting. He worked as a studio illustrator, freelance graphic designer, and ad agency art director. He taught for 19 years first at the OSU School of Architecture and then as an Associate Professor at the Columbus College of Art and Design.

Columbus Connection: A Columbus native, Ned was a graduate of Columbus West High School and the Ohio State University. He was a founding member and past president of the Central Ohio Watercolor Society and of the Columbus Society of Communicating Arts.
Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (1940 – 2015)

Mixed Media: “Blackberry Patch Mink Street and Long”

Born & Died: Columbus, OH. Born in 1940 and raised in Columbus, Ohio, in PoinDEXTER Village, one of the country’s first federally-funded metropolitan housing developments. She studied at Columbus College of Art and Design (cum laude 1960) and OSU; has exhibited extensively in the Midwest and New York, where she participated in a residency program sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council.

Her diverse body of work ranges from drawings and woodcuts to complex sculptures made from natural and synthetic materials, such as twigs, carved leathers, music boxes, and “hogmaw,” her own material composed of mud, grease, dyes, and glue.

Columbus Connection: Robinson was the first living artist to be the subject of a major Columbus Museum of Art exhibition (“Pages in History: The Art of Aminah Robinson”). Commissioned murals by Robinson are permanently installed in the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Friend of Elijah Pierce, who was also a spiritual mentor of hers.

Courtesy of Hammond Harkins Galleries.

Mary Francis Merrill (1920 - 1999)

Acrylic on Board: “1-70 West”

She was a prolific folk artist throughout her 30-year career, which included a decade-long struggle with an anxiety disorder that kept her away from people. Despite or perhaps in response to that, she created art depicting warm personal relationships. Living in a housing project, she had limited resources so she often used found objects and scraps of fabric, as in her dolls. Mary was known to leave dolls behind her property and watch from her window as children came to collect them.

Columbus Connection: Merrill’s art making in Columbus spanned three decades.
William Hawkins (1895 - 1990)

Pencil Drawing: “Breaking a Horse”

Folk artist. Born in rural Madison, Kentucky in 1895. Early years in Kentucky provided him with his love of animals, influenced by his grandmother who took part in the African American tradition of quilt making. Started drawing and selling his work in the 1930’s. He did not begin painting in the style for which he is best known until the mid-to late 1970s. Painted his signature and birth date and often his place of birth, in large letters that framed his paintings.

Columbus Connection: In Columbus, Ohio, Hawkins barely able to read and write, held an assortment of unskilled jobs, drove a truck, and even ran a small brothel. Married twice and claimed to have fathered twenty children. He worked almost without letup, in spite of illness and age. Died at nearly ninety-five years of age in Columbus. The Columbus Museum of Art, gave him a posthumous one-man show. He summed up his aspirations as an artist by remarking: “You have to do something wonderful, so people know who you are.”

(Above) Chester Nicodemus (1901 - 1990)

Ceramic: “Robin”

Known for Sculptor, pottery. He moved from Dayton, Ohio to Columbus in 1930 to teach at the Columbus Art School. In 1941 he left the field of teaching to pursue pottery making full time, using local red clay containing a large amount of iron. He called the ware Ferro-stone because of its durability. All of his pottery molds and glazes were destroyed after his death per his final wishes.

Columbus Connection: He ran the Ferro-Stone Ceramics business in Columbus, Ohio from 1943 to 1990.