

MUCKENTHALER FEATURES NWS PERMANENT COLLECTION

The NWS Permanent Collection 1955–2006 exhibition opened at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center on October 12 and will continue through December 21, 2008. The exhibition is designed to show the evolution of styles, thought and methods, as pertaining to watercolor, through the decades.

A photo wall of artwork from 1931–1954 opens the exhibition. As you progress through the first gallery you move past artwork from the mid-1950s to the end of the 1960s. The second gallery is devoted to watercolor from the 1970s to the present. Two glass showcases hold another extension of the exhibition. The first includes photo enlargements of paintings not included in the exhibition. The pieces are missing for a variety of reasons; however, as prize-winners for given years, their images need to be included in this body of work. The second case holds a variety of Society exhibition catalogs from the first in 1921 to three others depicting the various society name changes through the years (California Water Color Society, California National Water Color Society, National Watercolor Society). Also included in this case is a photo circa 1950 taken at a Society exhibition opening. Included in the photos are many of watercolor's legends (Rex Brandt, Joan Irving Brandt, Watson Cross, Jr., Keith Crown, Frode Dann, Phil Dike, Michael Frary, Mary Finley Fry, George Gibson, Ejnar Hansen, Emil Kosa, Jr., Douglass Parshall, Noel Quinn, David Scott, Sueo Serisawa, and many more. While this is obviously a historical exhibition, it is also a feast for the eyes since all the artwork included are the First Place winners through the decades.

The Permanent Collection has been shown many times over the years, from 1966 – when it was first exhibited as an 11-piece retrospective in conjunction with the Annual Exhibition – to 2000, when it completed a two-year tour of the United States. The Palm Springs Desert Museum and the City of Brea have loaned a total of seven works (never shown with the Collection before) and photo displays add another 31 images to complete a 77-year history of watercolor.

Artists whose work is included in the exhibition are: Clinton Adams, Walter Askin, Edward Betts, Paulette Beakley, Glenn Bradshaw, Carol Baliles, Carolyn Brown, Peggy Brown, Joseph Cain, Elona Cole, Connie Dillman, James Farrah, Hartley Gurrey, Alexander Guthrie, Eleanor Haddock, Richard Hanson, Jo Ann Hart, Serge Hollerbach, George James, Mary Jane Kieffer, Gerd Koch, John Kwok, Jerome Land, Mary Britten Lynch, Maxine Masterfield, Alexander Nepote, Douglass Parshall (two works) Cynthia Ann Potter, Louise Preeman, Jo Rebert, Ruth Rossman, John Salminen, John Selleck, Lenny Silverberg, Ruth Snyder, David Solomon, Electra Stamelos, Helen Stanley, Paul St. Denis, Cathy Woo, and Peggy Flora Zalucha.

Artists whose work is included in the photo arrays are: Kent Addison, Standish Backus, Jr., Loren Barton, Liduine Bekman, Rex Brandt, Tom Craig, Patricia Deadman, Francis de Erdeley, Phil Dike, Leonard Edmondson, Sadamitsu Fujita, George Gibson, Jean Grastorf, Richard Haines, Ejnar Hansen, Patricia Hansen, Joe Jaqua, Ynez Johnston, Tom E. Lewis, Rene H Lopez, Dan Lutz, J. Jay McVicker, Barse Miller, Kay Ornberg, Steve Rogers, Richards Ruben, Nicholas Simmons, Jan Stussy, Soon Y. Warren, Frank W. Williams, and James Couper Wright.

– Ron Miller, Historian
NWS Past President