

New York (city). Macbeth gallery

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1950/51

FRANCIS COLBURN

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

MARCH 5 TO
MARCH 24, 1951

MACBETH GALLERY

11 EAST 57th STREET : : : NEW YORK CITY 22

Francis Colburn, resident artist at the University of Vermont, has received more national recognition than any Vermont artist heretofore. Yet, in point of years and as artists mature, he is relatively young. The critical acclaim accorded these paintings, executed over a period of a half dozen years and shown at the Carnegie, the Whitney and other museums throughout the country, exhibits a serious interest in what he has to say.

Mr. Colburn is essentially a social painter. To his native endowment for good construction he adds the imagination of a bridge builder. His paintings are coordinated units which, in their control of space, line, color and form, are seriously engineered. Their content builds a bridge socially when the artist turns back to a less rational Vermont; to a time when the Green Mountain Flyer, as a crack train, first tore through the valley, garlanded with bunting and flowers; when the Ticonderoga vied with the Mississippi River boats in the gaiety of its excursions; when the inventive capacity of Vermont was strong and her children remained there to live out their lives; to a period when the curvilinear spirit of mansard roofs and Victorian sofas evidenced a buoyancy of spirit. In his ordered accumulations of marble fragments, daguerreotypes and stuffed birds there is a nostalgic harkening back.

At first glance his relatively modern method of expression seems ill-fitted to such romantic impedimenta. But when one pauses to consider that this social material flourished at a time when Cezanne was making his investigations in regard to cubism, Rousseau expressing himself with the patterned delight of a child, de la Fresnaye arranging material in prismatic planes of light, Marin and Maurer searching out laws of abstraction, all seems astonishingly fit and proper and the bridge Colburn constructs for us both meaningful and solid.

ARTHUR K. D. HEALY,
Middlebury College

CATALOGUE

1. INTO THE WOODS
2. TREES
3. SUMMER ORCHARD
4. EARTH, TREE AND SKY
5. LONELY PLACES
6. SKETCH
7. THE ORCHARD
8. SELF PITY
9. AFTERNOON
10. I SAW A CHAPEL ALL OF GOLD
11. THE LAMOILLE
12. CATAclysm
13. HORIZONS
14. CHARLESTON DEPOT
15. WHITE CHURCH
16. GENEALOGY
17. COLD MORNING
18. A STRANGER AND AFRAID
19. LAY A GARLAND ON MY GRAVE



