



# CHARLES CULVER

water colors

October 4th to 23rd, 1948

MACBETH GALLERY

11 East 57th Street • New York 22, N.Y.



I WISH that I might in a few words convey something of the pleasure these water colors by Charles Culver give me — pleasure in the strange poetry of his animals and birds and insects; in the decorative power of his images; and in the development of his talent.

About five years ago a sparrow flew against the windshield of his car and was killed. He painted a picture of it. I remember that tiny, jewel-like water color very well. That was his first painting of a bird. At that time his subjects were chiefly landscape. He was already notable, to my mind, for his sensitive perception of nature and his style, for he was using water color, which is usually a loose medium, with an exceptional control of tone and a bold, free yet precise drawing that were unusual.

Since that time he has been studying and thinking about animals and birds and insects. He observed them with an affection, humor and understanding. But he was searching for a way to paint them which would express also his interest in the luminosity of color and sculptural simplicity of form. He wanted to find a way to achieve the most monumental form and scale possible wherever it would help — even insects, he observes, are very sculptural — in terms of the luminosity and clear, controlled color patterns of paint. Two years ago he left Detroit for Northern Michigan to find time and solitude to work out his problem. The result is to be seen in these imaginative and very personal images.

I do not know if he will also include in his exhibit any of his studies of the lumbermen's architecture of Northern Michigan, in which the carpenters of the eighties and nineties let their imaginations and craftsmanship go, sometimes with fantastic exuberance. He treats these old houses as he does living creatures, with imagination, humor and style. The results are worth seeing.

— E. P. RICHARDSON,  
*Director, The Detroit Institute of Arts*

## LIST OF TITLES

1. Black and Brown Dog
2. Bellaire House — Tan and Green
3. Young Foxes
4. Porches on the Smith House
5. White Gander with Red Marking on Face
6. Moth with Yellow Spots and Black Circles
7. White-faced Deer
8. Deer Eying Beholder
9. Cattle
10. Young Deer, Resting
11. Great Moth
12. Raccoons
13. Hound
14. Red Deer, Standing
15. Dead Butterfly
16. Still Life
17. Two Guinea-Fowl
18. Geese and Gander
19. Still Life with Orange Flowers
20. Black, White and Orange Moth
21. Red Cow, Licking



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