

New York (City). Macbeth gallery.

Water Colors E N48

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MAINE and FLORIDA

BY

Maurice Becker

January 5th—17th, 1942

MACBETH GALLERY

11 East 57th Street, New York City

Foreword

Happy is he who takes to watercoloring, for this most ancient of mediums will repay him a thousand fold for his trust and confidence. Centuries ago the Chinese proved the richness and importance of watercolor, and today in America we are finding it capable of unsuspected variation and verve.

Maurice Becker, whose watercolors are assembled at the Macbeth Gallery for his second New York showing, appears peculiarly alive to the rewarding nature of this seemingly simple and disarming mode of painting. Like Sibelius's scores, his paintings are touched with the cross-currents and inner voices of the outdoor scenes he depicts. Whether in Maine or Florida, he catches simple facts of landscape or seascape and invests them with qualities highly personal. A shed, a tent, a boat at anchor become something more than prosaic landmarks. He orchestrates his forms with much rippling byplay and tonal veiling, with now and then an unmistakable salute to that master watercolorist, Paul Cézanne, who reset the key for generations to come.

Mr. Becker's work is happily devoid of showy, tricky passages. He spreads his washes in a harmonious webbing of transparent color. When the human element is introduced, his treatment becomes more complex, as can be seen in the Klee-like prismatic patterning of a fisherman's torso. There is much more that might be said about these watercolors but I am confident that they bespeak the artist far more eloquently than any words of mine.

RALPH FLINT

Titles of Water Colors

1. Kelp Covered Rock
2. The Cove at Sunset
3. Afternoon Glow
4. The Yard, Swans Island
5. Pink Sky No. 1
6. Sunburnt Bather
7. Little Dock
8. Pink Sky No. 2
9. Gas Station—Key West
10. At Steamship Dock—Key West
11. View of Minturn, Swans Island
12. The Wrecks—Key West
13. Windy Morning, Swans Island
14. Lobster Boat at Sunset
15. Men of Swans Island
16. Fish Oil Drums
17. Quarry, Minturn, Swans Island
18. Along the Shore, Swans Island
19. Vacationist
20. Grazing, Swans Island
21. Green Sea—Key West
22. Blue Evening
23. Red Keel
24. On Duval Street—Key West
25. Young Artist and Lobstermen

