

Hugo Melville Fisher

1878-1948

Born in Brooklyn, NY on Oct. 20, 1878, was the fourth generation artist in his family, the son of landscape artist Hugo Anton Fisher, Hugo moved with his family to Alameda, CA where he grew up. By the age of 8, his father had taught him to paint. After graduating from high school, he spent two years in Hawaii and travelled around the country painting.

Shortly after the turn of the century, he went to Europe and spent the next 16 years there. While in Paris, he studied with Whistler, Bouguereau, Laurens, and Benjamin-Constant. His exhibitions in London and Paris received favorable reviews from the local press. While there he was a member of the American Art Association and Friars Club.

Upon his return to New York in 1920, his paintings of the French Modernist school caused quite a stir. After 1925 he traveled constantly and made trips around the world. Returning to Alameda in 1938, Fisher remained there until a brain tumor ended his life on Sept. 30, 1946. Neither he nor his brother Harrison married and with their demise ended a long line of artists. Some of his exhibitions included at the Mechanics' Institute (SF), 1886-89; California State Fair, 1891 (medal); Babcock Gallery (NYC), 1921; Ainslie Galleries (NYC), 1921-25; Duran-Ruel Galleries (Paris), 1937; Barker Bros (LA), 1938; Graves Gallery (SF), 1940. In: Reading (PA) Public Museum; Oakland Museum; Butler (OH) Inst. Oakland Museum; Associated American Artists 1921-31 and others.

Reference:

Who Was Who in American Art, Falk, Vol. I, p.1129; Artists in California 1786-1940, Hughes, Vol. 1, p.379; Biographical Encyclopedia of American Painters, Sculptors & Engravers, Creps, Vol. 1, p.456; Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers, Mantle Fielding, p.302; Benezit, Dictionnaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dessinateurs, et Graveurs, Vol 5, p.489 ; Davenport's Art Reference Guide.