



George Morrison Papers

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Chairwoman
Friends
Gallery
870 3160

4 Badger Lane
Mary Ann Ginnow
GEORGE MORRISON

484 7656

North
oaks
55110
St Paul

In discussing his art, George Morrison acknowledges his early interest in the abstract, beginning with his life in New York in the Forties and the influence of the surrealist and abstract expressionist artists of that time. But for him the formal structural elements were there in the process of breaking down the landscape and figurative themes such as trees, rocks, and buildings into more and more arbitrary and ambiguous sections.

Mr. Morrison is probably best known for his wood collages, one of which has been delighting viewers at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. In addition, his paintings, drawings and rubbings follow this unique abstract style in their pre-occupation with textural surfaces, the somewhat hidden organic suggestion, and the ever-present horizon line - which has a special fascination for the artist. The many summers spent in Provincetown on the Cape and the earlier association with Lake Superior apparently left an inner experience that creatively is defined in this line image in George Morrison's work.

In the seasonal colors of the rubbings, in these abstract images of topographical renderings taken from the larger wood reliefs, one is again reminded that nature, with its recreating cycles, is very much a part of Mr. Morrison's work.

George Morrison was born in Grand Portage Indian Reservation, Grand Marais, Minnesota, in 1919. He began his art studies at the Minneapolis School of Art (now the Minneapolis College of Art and Design) in 1938. He was awarded an honorary M.F.A. degree from the college in 1969. He also participated in the Art Students League in New York City from 1943 to 1946. In 1952, under a Fulbright Scholarship, he studied at the University of Aix-Marseilles, Provence, France.

His teaching experience began at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. From 1963 to 1970, Mr. Morrison was Associate Professor of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design. He returned to Minnesota in 1970 to accept a visiting professorship at the University of Minnesota in Studio Arts and American Indian Studies. Since 1973, he has been Associate Professor of Studio Arts there.

For further information, please ask to see the 10-page Curriculum Vita, which includes the listing of Museums, Art Centers, Universities, Corporations and private persons who have included George Morrison in their permanent collections.

EXHIBITIONS

A. One Man Exhibition - 1979

Carl N. Gorman Museum
University of California, Davis, California

D. Invitational Exhibitions - 1979

New Works by Twin City Artists

Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

Ojibwe Art Expo ~~99~~ ANNUALS (1979-1980-1981-1982)

Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota

Tweed Museum, University of Minnesota at Duluth, Minnesota

AUGSBURG COLLEGE,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Portfolio 15 (Graphics by Vermillion Press)

15 artists selected by Northwestern Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota

El Autentico Pueblo (American Indian Exhibit)

Casa de las Americas, Havana, Cuba

Pintura Amerindia Contemporanea/E.U.A.

An exhibition of American Indian Painting organized by
U. S. Information Service. Opened at Musea del Arte,
Santiago, Chile and traveled to Bolivia, Peru, Columbia,
and Ecuador.

Vanderlip Award Winners Exhibition

Minneapolis College of Art & Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota

COLLECTIONS

A. Carl N. Gorman Museum, University of California, Davis; Impression rubbing, (gift)

Federal Forestry Building, Sandpoint, Idaho; TOTEM V, wood sculpture;
Commission awarded by G. S. A. Art-in-Architecture Program, Washington, D.C.

Through Portfolio 15, Northwestern Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota, presented
a print to each of the following institutions:

- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Rochester Art Center, Rochester, Minnesota
- College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota
- College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota
- St. Paul Academy & Summit School, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Blake School, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Minneapolis College of Art & Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- University of Minnesota Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- University of Minnesota Alumni Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- University of Minnesota, Duluth, Minnesota
- University of Minnesota, Morris, Minnesota
- Minnesota Museum of Art, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota
- St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota
- Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota
- St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota
- St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota
- Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota

GEORGE MORRISON

1980 ADDENDUM

COLLECTIONS - 2

Plains Museum, Moorhead, Minnesota
Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota
Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota
Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Metropolitan State College, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF STUDIO ARTS -- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

GEORGE MORRISON -- Professional Activities, 1973-74

- EXHIBITIONS: One-man shows, Walker Art Center, April, 1973. Travel to:
Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, June, 1973;
Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christie, September, 1973;
Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, Texas,
November, 1973.
- Left Bank Gallery, Prescott, Wisconsin, July, 1973.
University of Wisconsin, River Falls, September, 1973.
Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota, November, 1973.
- Group shows, Provincetown Art Association, Massachusetts, June, 1973.
Lending Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October, 1973.
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana,
Faculty exchange show, January, 1974.
- COLLECTIONS: Museums and Walker Art Center, (4 drawings).
Art Centers, Minneapolis Institute of Art, (1 drawing).
Bethel College, St. Paul, (1 drawing).
University of Wisconsin, River Falls, (1 drawing)
(1 tempera).
Mansfield State College, Mansfield, Pa., (1 oil).
- Corporate, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, (2 drawings).
Fingerhut Corporation, Minnetonka, (1 drawing).
M.T.S. Company, Minneapolis, (1 drawing).
Jefferson Lines, Inc., Minneapolis, (1 drawing).
Dillon Press, Minneapolis, (1 drawing).*
- INVITATIONS: Visiting Professor, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul; Fall, 1973.
Lecture Course, American Indian Art.
- Juror, Native American Children's Art, an exhibition for and at:
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, August, 1973.
- PUBLICATIONS: Book reviews for Sunday Book Review Section, (American Indians);
Minneapolis Tribune, August 5, 1973.
Minneapolis Tribune, February 10, 1974.
(attached)
- Subject for a biography, in a series of American Indians, past and
present, for junior readers;
GEORGE MORRISON, The Story of an American Indian,
by Dragos D. Kostich, scheduled for publication in late
1974, by Dillon Press, Minneapolis.
- Photograph and mention, The American Indian in America, Volume I,
published in 1973, by Lerner Publications, Minneapolis.
- Photograph and mention, Indians of Today, published by I.C.F.P.,
Chicago, 1971. (not previously listed).

MISCELLANEOUS: Working with Hodne-Stagaberg, architects, and Urban American Indian Center, at designs for exterior facade for proposed center, scheduled for completion in late 1974.

Member, AIM (American Indian Movement), 1974.

The Center Companies

WOOD SCULPTURE

This wood collage sculpture based on the logo of The Center Companies was created by Minnesota artist George Morrison, who was commissioned to do the work by Dayton Hudson Corporation.

The sculpture, done in the mosaic style that is characteristic of Mr. Morrison's work, is fashioned from three exotic woods. The lightest colored wood is mahogany from Honduras in South America. The medium-dark wood is Philippine mahogany. The darkest is from the bubinga tree that grows in tropical West Africa, often called African rosewood.

Wood is an appropriate medium for portraying the symbol of The Center Companies, says Mr. Morrison, because it is a living material that symbolizes growth, strength and nourishment.

Mr. Morrison's work has been a part of 88 exhibitions throughout the nation, including 20 one-man shows. Among them were exhibits at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Antioch (Ohio) College; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; and Grand Central Modern Gallery, New York.

His paintings, prints, drawings and wood sculptures are in the permanent collections of numerous arts institutions, including the Whitney Museum, New York; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts; Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts; Center for Arts of Indian North America; Bezalel National Museum, Jerusalem, Israel; Virginia Museum of Art, Richmond; the Minneapolis Institute of Arts; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

GEORGE MORRISON

1974-75

- Group Exhibitions: College of St. Catherine Faculty Show, St. Paul
(3 drawings), September 1974--travel to:
St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.
Viterbo College, LaCrosse, Wisc.
St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn.
Worthington Jr. College, Worthington, Minn.
Mesabi State Jr. College, Virginia, Minn.
Northland Community College, Thief River Falls, Mn.
Rainy River Community College, International
Falls, Minn.
Rochester Community College, Rochester, Minn.
- Second Annual Ojibway Exhibition (2 drawings),
April 1975, Bemidji State College, Bemidji, Mn.
→ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR, ST. PAUL - AUGUST, 1974 (WOOD COLLAGE)
Art Lending Gallery, Minneapolis, Minn. (drawings),
March 1975
- One-Man Show, Touchstone Gallery, New York City,
Scheduled for March 1976 (committed)
→ FIRST AMERICAN BANK - ST. PAUL - 1974 (2 WORKS)
- Acquisitions: Weston Memorial Collection - oil painting, gift,
October 1974
Wichita State University Fine Arts Center,
Wichita, Kansas
Minneapolis Institute of Arts - wood Collage 14x5'
purchase, April 1975
- Commissions: Native American Center, Minneapolis - wood mural,
1974-75 (98x18')
First Minneapolis Bank, Minneapolis - wood mural
collage 10x3 1/2', 1975
WHITE BEAR LAKE
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Donnelly, St. Paul, wood collage,
40x70", 1975
- Lecture: Native American Association, Davenport, Iowa,
Sponsored by Cornell College, Mt. Veron, Iowa, Jan '75
- Juror: Wisconsin State American Indian Children's Art,
Stout State University, Minomoni, Wisc., Jan. '75
American Indian Annual Exhibition, Philbrook Art
Center, Tulsa, Okla., April, 1975
- Teaching
Invitation: College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, - one class,
American Indian Art, 2nd semester, 1975