

A PERSISTENT PASSION:

The Art of Lora Eberly Ballou: 1870-1976

Places in a One Hundred Six Year Life

April 27, 2014 - July 20, 2014

Rediscovering an Artist

For almost all of my life I thought of my grandmother, Lora Eberly Ballou (Gam), as an extraordinary, quiet, little woman who over a very long life had witnessed an incredible variety of historical events, traveled practically everywhere in this world, and lived in a grand house that provided my brother and me with endless memories of youthful experiences and adventures. We were aware of her painting, but it was not central to our family life, and visits to her home were more or less “structured” events where being on your best behavior was the order of the day.

I do remember when I was around nine or ten, wandering into her 3rd floor studio on a weekend sleepover as she was struggling with a new technique of pallet knife paint application. Rather than continue to labor in frustration she decided to set her work aside and engage me in helping her with a rather laborious clean up activity. Mostly she painted out of family view, and this activity was never a primary conversation topic. Her finished art was often given away to friends and family, or donated to the local hospital; thus we never saw it as an entire collection. However, as time passed and homes were sold, my wife Pat and I made the effort to collect, store, and maintain the Lora Ballou art along with other objects of family history.

The genesis for this exhibition came while attending the celebration of Governor-elect Malloy at the restored Old Town Hall. Pat, my wife, commented on its appropriateness as an art gallery, and the benefit to Stamford downtown if it became an exhibition hall. That night *artist* Lora Eberly Ballou materialized as we reevaluated her paintings for a public viewing. We gained reinforcement and support of this project from the Board of Old Town Hall, and the team of art professionals we assembled to create this exhibition.

Rediscovering the art of Lora Eberly Ballou, and making it public celebrates the artistic talent of an extraordinary woman previously known to us simply as GAM.

Bob Phillips

WEEKDAY HOURS:

TUESDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 - 2:00PM
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

WEEKEND HOURS:

1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS, 1-4PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 973 744 1796
WWW.MONTCLAIRHISTORICAL.ORG

ADDRESS:

THE CHARLES SHULTZ HOUSE (EVERGREENS)
30 NORTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042



SPONSORED BY:
Robert M. and Patricia C. Phillips

SUPPORTED BY:
The Montclair Historical Society gratefully receives an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State

GUEST CURATORS:
Susanna Baker, Studio Montclair,
Valerie A. Cooper, Picture That LLC
& Lina Morielli, Arts Advocate

CATALOGUE ESSAY:
© Sophia Gevas, 2012

TIMELINE RESEARCH:
Valerie A. Cooper, 2012

CATALOGUE (4 PAGE INSERT):
Mike Farrelly, Montclair Historian and the Montclair Historical Society Board of Trustees

ART DIRECTION:
Lina Morielli

GRAPHICS:
Connacher Design and
Maria Almazan Design

COVER IMAGE:
Lora Ballou at her easel, Oakland,
New Jersey, 1937

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