



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Grace C. Day (1884-1983)

Grace C. Day was born in Illinois in 1884 to Adeline N. Malone and Samuel L. Cronce. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and later lived in Illinois where he was educated in public schools and at the Mechanicsburg Academy. He worked as a teacher for several years before moving the family to Washington State in 1889. In 1891, he was admitted to the Bar and went on to serve as county clerk and clerk of the Superior Court of Adams County in Washington.¹

Day was raised in the city of Spokane and graduated from the local high school.² She became interested in painting as a teenager and went on to study under German artist William Vanlurtzer.³ In 1904, she married George H. Day, a dealer of automobile parts at the firm of Child Brothers & Day.⁴

Day was “widely known for her art interests and her activities in club circles...”⁵ In 1932, Day was a recording secretary of the Spokane Art Association. Incorporated in 1933, the association was part of the College Art Association and the American Federation of the Arts.⁶ Endorsed by the Spokane Art Association, Day became a vice president of the Spokane City Federation of Women’s Organizations in 1935.⁷ She was elected president the following year and was on the poster committee for a city-wide contest.⁸ In 1937, Day held a meeting of the art appreciation group at her home and spoke on the topic of “Early American Landscapes.”⁹

In the early 1940’s, Day began restoring china and porcelain with the help of William Karl Klein of Philadelphia. Klein shared his family’s restoration methods with Day by mail. What started out as a hobby for Day, turned into a business. She restored china and porcelain as well as oil paintings from her home.¹⁰

¹ Julian Hawthorne. *History of Washington: The Evergreen State from Early Dawn to Daylight*, (Washington: American Historical Publishing, 1893) 539.

² “To be Married in June,” *Adams County News* (Ritzville, Washington), Wed, Apr 20, 1904, 5.

³ “Work in Fine Art Forms Includes Expert Mending,” *Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, Washington), Wed, Dec 2, 1970, 25.

⁴ “In the Days of Roses,” *Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, Washington), Sat, Apr 16, 1904, 10.

⁵ “Mrs. G. Day Is President,” *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington), Fri, May 8, 1936, 8.

⁶ “Art Association Plans,” *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington), Wed, Sep 21, 1932, 8.

⁷ “City Federation to Name Chief,” *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington) Sun, Apr 28, 1935, 33.

⁸ “Mrs. G. Day Is President,” *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington), Fri, May 8, 1936, 8.

⁹ “Museum Will Show Russell Paintings,” *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington) · Sun, Nov 14, 1937, 34.

¹⁰ “Work in Fine Art Forms Includes Expert Mending,” *Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, Washington), Wed, Dec 2, 1970, 25.



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In 1962, she made hand-painted place cards featuring an iris for the annual luncheon of the Spokane Federation of Women’s Organizations.¹¹ In 1970, Day displayed her artwork in her Spokane apartment. Working in oil, watercolor, and tapestry, Day attributed her precise representational style to “the German method.”¹²

A lover of nature, Day “[relished] watching ‘flowers blossom on canvas.’” Grace C. Day died in Spokane, Washington in 1983.

¹¹ “Installation Set at Luncheon,” *Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, Washington) · Thu, Jun 7, 1962, 30.

¹² “Work in Fine Art Forms Includes Expert Mending,” *Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, Washington), Wed, Dec 2, 1970, 25.