



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Jessie Margaret Johnston (1906-1984)

Jessie Margaret Johnston was born in Texas in 1906 to Jessie (Nicholson) and J.E. Johnston, a railroad ticket agent. Born in Canada, her father moved to Texas as a young man to begin his career with the railroad. In 1903, he married Jessie Nicholson of Greenville, Texas and the couple had four children. In 1908, he took a position as a city ticket and passenger agent in Fort Worth.¹

Johnston traveled to the West Coast with her father in 1926 and visited California, Oregon, and British Columbia.² The following year they headed east with stops in Washington D.C., New York, and Canada.³

In 1930, Johnston married Roderick James Forsyth, a geologist in the crude oil industry. The couple resided in San Angelo.⁴ By 1942, the couple had moved to Evansville, Indiana and had two children.⁵

While little is known about Johnston's education or artistic endeavors, she was a member of the Fort Worth Arts and Crafts Club which met at the First Christian Church. She was appointed corresponding secretary of the club in 1927⁶ and was elected recording secretary the following year.⁷ In 1930, Johnston exhibited at the Annual Exhibition by Texas Artists organized by the Fort Worth Art Museum.⁸

Jessie Margaret Johnston Forsyth died in Veronia, Oregon in 1984. She was 78 years old.

¹ "Rail Man About to End Long Service With M-K-T," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Sun, Jul 19, 1942, 25.

² "Today's Pictures," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Sun, Oct 10, 1926, 31.

³ "Leaving on Eastern Trip," *Fort Worth Record-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Thu, Oct 6, 1927, 4.

⁴ "Miss Johnston IS Wed to Mr. Forsythe," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Fri, May 9, 1930, 2.

⁵ "Rail Man About to End Long Service With M-K-T," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

⁶ "4 Members Added by Arts and Crafts Club," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Sun, Nov 27, 1927, 38.

⁷ "Arts and Crafts Club Election," *Fort Worth Record-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas), Tue, Jan 3, 1928, 4.

⁸ Paula L. Grauer, Michael R. Grauer, *Dictionary of Texas Artists, 1800-1945*, (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1999) 51.