



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Helen M. Goodwin (1865-1955)

Helen M. Goodwin was born in 1865 in New Castle, Indiana to Maria Louisa (Murphy) and George Washington Goodwin, a grain merchant. She was the 6th born of 11 children in a prominent pioneer family. Her maternal grandfather, Col. Miles Murphy built one of the first houses in New Castle. Goodwin resided in the brick house located on South Main Street for much of her life.¹

Goodwin began her formal artistic training at the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis.² In 1903, she traveled to Europe to continue her studies. In Paris, Goodwin shared a studio with her elder sister Frances Goodwin (1855-1955), a sculptor of note.³ Frances studied with the Indianapolis Art Association before enrolling at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her sculpture entitled *Education* commissioned for the Indiana building at the World's Columbian Exposition received an honorable mention. In 1896, she was commissioned to sculpt a bust of late Vice-President Schuyler Colfax which was placed in a niche in the capitol.⁴ The marble bust by Frances was the second commission of its kind given to a woman artist. The first such commission was given to Vinnie Ream (1847-1914).⁵

In 1906, Goodwin and her sister were included in the annual exhibition of the American Woman's Art Association in Paris. Goodwin was a member of the exhibition's reception committee and spent an afternoon entertaining Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, the wife of the American ambassador.⁶ In 1911, 12 of Goodwin's miniatures were displayed at the 4th Annual Exhibition of Works by Indiana Artists held at the John Herron Institute. Her sister Frances contributed a bust of the Rev. James D. Stanley to the exhibit.⁷ The following year, Goodwin contributed a miniature entitled *Study of an Old Lady* to an exhibition of the Society of Western Artists at the John Herron Institute.⁸ In 1913, she contributed several works including *Italian Boy*, *Le Grande of France*, *A Quiet Spot*, and a miniature entitled *Miss Shirley* to an exhibition at the public gallery in Richmond, Indiana.⁹ That same year, she exhibited with the Chicago Miniature Society.¹⁰

¹ "Indiana Pen Women Newcastle Guests," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Mon, Jun 19, 1933, 8.

² Ibid

³ "Art Exhibit is Much Admired," *The Republic* (Columbus, Indiana), Wed, Nov 30, 1921, 8.

⁴ "The New Bust of Colfax," *The South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, Indiana), Sat, Dec 18, 1897, 10.

⁵ "A Bust of Mr. Colfax," *The South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, Indiana), Sat, Feb 15, 1896, 1.

⁶ "Two Indiana Girls in Paris," *The Star Press* (Muncie, Indiana), Mon, Mar 26, 1906, 3.

⁷ "Indiana Artists Show Varied Work," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sun, May 7, 1911, 52.

⁸ "Not Difficult to Pick Out The Artists Work," *The Indianapolis News* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sat, Feb 10, 1912, 15.

⁹ "Fine Paintings by Indianians," *The Star Press* (Muncie, Indiana), Mon, Nov 17, 1913, 2.

¹⁰ "Art Notes," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sun, Nov 23, 1913, 15.



HAWTHORNE Fine Art

In 1915, the Goodwin sisters exhibited at the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco.¹¹ The following year they exhibited with a group of contemporary artists during the Centennial Exhibition of relics and antiques at the John Herron Institute. Helen contributed two of her miniatures on ivory while Frances contributed her bust of the Rev. J.D. Stanley.¹² In 1916, the sisters were among the women artists included in *Art in Indiana*, a book by American Impressionist William Forsyth.¹³ In 1918, the sisters wintered together on the California coast. During their stay, Goodwin executed *Bluffs—Long Beach, California* which was exhibited in 1919 at the 12th Annual Indiana Artists exhibit at the John Herron Institute. The work was purchased by a group of former New Castle residents who presented the painting to the Omar Bundy Club, a social center named in honor of the New Castle native and decorated World War I veteran Major General Omar Bundy.¹⁴

The Goodwin sisters spent the winter of 1920 through the spring of 1921 in Florida. They spent time in Daytona, and in Palatka on an estate overlooking the St. John's River.¹⁵ In the fall of 1921, Goodwin exhibited 24 paintings depicting coastal scenes and semi-tropical landscapes from her time in Florida at the Herman Gallery in Indianapolis.¹⁶

During her lifetime, Goodwin held memberships with the Indianapolis Art Club, the Hoosier Salon, Provincetown Art Association, and the American Women's Art Association in Paris. She was awarded a prize at the Hoosier Salon in 1925.¹⁷

Helen M. Goodwin died in 1955. She was 90 years old.

¹¹ "Indiana Has Large Part in Exposition," *The Indianapolis News* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Thu, May 6, 1915, 20.

¹² "Many Visitors Attend Centennial Exhibition," *The Indianapolis News* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sat, Oct 28, 1916, 7.

¹³ "Newcastle Artist Shows Collection of Coast Scenes," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sun, Oct 2, 1921, 37.

¹⁴ "Newcastle Woman's Painting Presented," *The Star Press* (Muncie, Indiana), Fri, Apr 18, 1919, 12.

¹⁵ "Illustrated Lecture," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sun, Feb 27, 1921, 45.

¹⁶ "Newcastle Artist Shows Collection of Coast Scenes," *The Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, Indiana), Sun, Oct 2, 1921, 37.

¹⁷ Peter Hastings Falk, *Who Was Who in American* (Madison, Conn.: Soundview Press, 1985) Art 238.