



ADELINE ALBRIGHT WIGAND (1852-1944)

Adeline Johnson Albright Wigand was born in Madison, New Jersey to Mary B. Ward and James Albright. When she was still a child, Wigand's father bought a farm in Linn County, Iowa, and the family moved west. They later moved to Cedar Rapids where Mr. Albright was employed in the furniture business.¹

Wigand studied in New York City at the Cooper Union, and the Art Students League under William Merritt Chase. A student of the National Academy of Design, Wigand received an honorable mention in 1880 for her work in the Academy's Life School.²

In July of 1884, her portraits of prominent Cedar Rapids residents, Thomas M. Sinclair and Judge Joshua Tracy, were displayed in the window of the local Krebs's Bros. art store.³ That November, Wigand traveled to Europe to continue her artistic studies. She was accompanied by her father who, due to health issues, retired from the furniture business the year before.⁴

In Paris, Wigand studied at the Academie Julian under notable French artists William-Adolphe Bouguereau and Tony Robert-Fleury. After two years in Paris, Wigand's work was accepted into the Paris Salon.⁵

Returning to the United States in 1886, Wigand experienced an increased demand for her work. In the summer of 1888, she returned to New York City where she established a studio and accepted portrait orders.⁶ In 1890, she married New York artist Otto C. Wigand (1856-1944). The two artists may have met while Wigand was studying in Paris.

In 1909, Wigand was awarded prizes from the National Academy of Design and the Woman's Art Club of New York for her painting entitled *The Woman in Blue*. The following year the work

¹ "The Final Summons," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Wed, Jun 30, 1897, 3.

² "Prizes to Art Students," *New-York Tribune* (New York, New York) Thu, May 20, 1880, 8.

³ "Works of Merit," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Sat, Jul 19, 1884, 1.

⁴ "The Final Summons," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Wed, Jun 30, 1897, 3.

⁵ "General News Notes," *The Indiana State Sentinel* (Indianapolis, Indiana) Wed, Jun 23, 1886, 3.

⁶ "Personal and General," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Wed, Aug 15, 1888, 4.

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was acquired by the Library Art Association in Cedar Rapids.⁷ In 1916, her oil portrait of Thomas M. Sinclair was unveiled during the Founders Day celebration held at the Sinclair Memorial Chapel at Coe College in Cedar Rapids.⁸

During her lifetime, Wigand was a member and president of the National Association of Women Artists and the Art Committee of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. She exhibited widely, including at the Paris Salon, the Inter-state industrial exposition of Chicago (1887), the National Academy of Design (on at least eleven occasions), and the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences. She received many prizes and awards including the National Academy's Shaw Memorial Prize (1909), the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors (1920) and the National Art Club (1910).

Adeline Johnson Albright Wigand died in 1944 in Stapleton, New York; the Staten Island neighborhood she called home for three decades.

In 2011, Wigand and her husband were the subject of a retrospective entitled *Beauty Rediscovered: Paintings by Adeline Albright Wigand & Otto C. Wigand* at the Staten Island Museum of Art.

⁷ "Art and the Library," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Mon, Feb 14, 1910, 8.

⁸ "December 12 Date for Founders' Day," *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Thu, Nov 16, 1916, 1.