



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Paul Bernard King (1867-1947)

Paul Bernard King was born in 1867 in Buffalo, New York to Pauline (Stephan) and Bernard H. King, a goldsmith. As a teenager, King worked as a lithographer and later enrolled at the Art Students League in Buffalo. He was a member of the Bohemian Sketch Club which included notable American artists Edward Dufner (1872-1957) and Eugene Speicher (1883-1962).¹ King's work was displayed at the opening reception of the Sketch Club in 1893.² He later settled in New York City and worked as a commercial artist while studying under H. Siddons Mowbray (1858-1928) at the Art Students League between 1901 and 1904.³

King traveled to Europe and furthered his studies in Holland and made trips to both London and Paris. Upon his return to the United States, King settled in Philadelphia and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1906, King was awarded both the Shaw Prize and the Inness Prize from the Salmagundi Club. The following year, King married Cornelia Bonnell Greene in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia where the couple resided for nearly a decade.⁴ In 1914, King received the gold medal from the Philadelphia Art Club for his painting titled *The Old Stone Bridge*.⁵ In 1915, he won the silver medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.⁶ He received the Philadelphia Prize, a notable distinction, from the Pennsylvania Academy in 1918.⁷ King was the acting president of the Philadelphia School of Design for Women until 1921.⁸

In 1923, King moved to Stony Brook, New York where he joined the Long Island artist colony. In the spring of the same year King received the National Academy's Altman Prize, a high honor for the artist, for his painting *Early Winter*.⁹ The artist began exhibiting with the National

¹ Edward Hale Brush, "The Art of Paul King, A.N.A.," *The American Magazine of Art* 15, no. 2 (1924): 59-63. Accessed October 27, 2020. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23928396>.

² "Among the People," *The Buffalo Commercial* (Buffalo, New York), Wed, Oct 25, 1893, p 8.

³ David Bernard Dearing, *Paintings and Sculpture in the Collection of the National Academy of Design: Volume I, 1826-1925* (New York: Hudson Hills Press, 2004) 334.

⁴ "King-Green," *The New York Times* (New York, New York), Wed, Jun 5, 1907, p 7.

⁵ "Art Club Awards Announced," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Sun, Jan 4, 1914, p 8.

⁶ Dearing, *Paintings and Sculpture*, 334.

⁷ Brush, "The Art of Paul King, A.N.A.," 59-63.

⁸ Dearing, *Paintings and Sculpture*, 334

⁹ Brush, "The Art of Paul King, A.N.A.," 59-63.



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Academy as early as 1902. He became an associate member of the Academy in 1918 and was elected to full academician in 1933. King was represented in nearly every annual exhibit at the National Academy until he died.¹⁰

A skilled draftsman, King was known for his portrait work and even more so for his landscapes. A critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer noted the emotional experience one feels when viewing the artist's work is equivalent to that of reading poetry. He said that King's paintings should be seen "for the sheer visual delight which they give..."¹¹ The critic further stated, "...[King's] snowy canvases, colorful, broad of stroke, vigorous, bold, ever portraying the joy and not the drear of such days, perhaps take precedence over his autumnal, summer and spring landscapes, delightful as most of these are."¹²

Paul Bernard King died in New York in 1947. He was 80 years old.

¹⁰ Dearing, *Paintings and Sculpture*, 334.

¹¹ "In the Galleries Devoted to Art," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) Sun, Mar 21, 1926, p 41.

¹² Ibid