



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Anna C. Freeland (1837-1911)

Anna C. Freeland was born in New Hampshire to Mary Ann (Baker) and William Chamberlain. She received her education at the New Hampshire Conference Seminary and Female College in Tilton, New Hampshire. She studied art in Chicago under Walter Shirlaw, at the Académie Julian in Paris under Constant, and in Boston under William A. Rimmer and William M. Hunt.¹

An artist as well as a respected teacher, Freeland was a founder of the Worcester Art Students Club whose members included Joseph H. Greenwood and Frank J. Darrah. Incorporated in 1887, the club held meetings in the homes of its members. The club began holding meetings and exhibitions at the Worcester Art Museum following its opening in 1898.²

Freeland offered instruction from her Worcester studio during the Winter months, and for over a decade, spent her summer working in her Jackson, New Hampshire studio.³ Her studio adjoined Gray's Inn, a lodging establishment popular among artists. While busy executing figurative and floral works, as well as landscape and animal subjects, Freeland continued to teach. In 1886, she instructed a class of lady artists in Jackson.⁴

In 1890, Freeland contributed several floral works as well as *Portrait of Baby McClure*, the infant daughter of an Art Students' Club member, to the 10th annual exhibition of the club.⁵ In 1902, Freeland was the instructor at an outdoor sketch class organized by the Newton Center Woman's club.⁶ In 1910, she exhibited with local artists including Joseph H. Greenwood at the Worcester Art Museum.⁷

¹ "Death of Mrs. Anna C. Freeland," *Fitchburg Sentinel* (Fitchburg, Massachusetts) Tue, Oct 17, 1911, 4.; C.H. Cummings, *Leading Men of Worcester and Vicinity* (Boston: Mercantile Publishing Company, 1889), 117.

² Zelotes Wood Coombs, *The Worcester Art Society, 1877-1914* (Worcester, Mass.: Worcester Art Museum, 1945) 13, 14.

³ C.H. Cummings, *Leading Men of Worcester and Vicinity*, 117.

⁴ "Art and Artists," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts) Sun, Aug 1, 1886, 10.

⁵ "Some Pretty Pictures," *Light*, Vol. I, No. I (Worcester, MA) Saturday, March 1, 1890, 6.

⁶ "A Gala Day," *Fitchburg Sentinel* (Fitchburg, Massachusetts) Thu, May 15, 1902, 6.

⁷ "Worcester Art Museum," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Wed, May 18, 1910, 19.



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During her lifetime, Freeland exhibited locally and provided art instruction to notable artists including Walter Appleton Clark and Arthur Wesley Dow.⁸ She was a founder and the first president of the Worcester Art Students' Club.

⁸ "Death of Mrs. Anna C. Freeland," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, 4.