

Virginia Webb (1921- 2012)

Virginia Webb was born on June 2, 1921 in Queens, New York to Anna and Francis Hildebrand, a contractor. She graduated from St. Joseph's School in Brentwood, New York and when her father would not permit her to attend art school she trained as a secretary at the Katherine Gibbs School in New York City. During World War II, Webb served with the American Women's Volunteer Service and with the American Red Cross in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan. In 1951, Webb married Albert Webb, a former medical paratrooper active in the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. Together they built and ran the Weathervane Motel in Manchester, Vermont.

In 1952, at the age of 31, Webb studied art at the Académie Julian in Paris, France. She went on to study portrait painting at the Art Students League with Robert Brackman and Frank Mason and landscape painting with Jay Hall Connaway in Vermont. Webb was the recipient of numerous awards from the Berkshire Museum [Pittsfield, MA], and the Museum of Fine Arts [Springfield, MA]. In 1969 she was chosen as a finalist from over 2,000 entries for the 7th Annual Benedictine Art Awards.

During her lifetime, Webb exhibited widely in New York and New England and had one-person exhibits at the Berkshire Museum, the Bronxville Library [Bronxville, NY] and the Barbizon Hotel [New York, NY]. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Berkshire Museum, the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, the Benedictine Abbey Collection [Fecamp, France], the Southern Vermont Art Center and the Vermont State House.

Virginia Webb, known for her impressionist landscape paintings that evoked “for the viewer the sounds of flies buzzing and the scratch of weeds against his skin”¹ died at the age of 91 in Hanover, New Hampshire.

¹ Bennington Banner “Garbo, Art Shows open this week” Sat, Feb 27, 1971 p. 7