



HAWTHORNE Fine Art

Lucy T. Fenner was born in January 1865 in South Orange, New Jersey. She was the youngest daughter of Mary Tye and Henry Fenner of England. Her parents married in New York City in 1844 and later moved to South Orange. Her father, a farmer, was a founder of the Church of the Holy Communion built in 1860. After the death of her parents, Lucy donated a triptych window by Louis C. Tiffany in memory of her parents.¹

Lucy's eldest sister Emily (b. 1850) attended the Wood Engraving School at the Cooper Union and in 1872 received first prize for the best original drawing on wood.² Her work was included in the 18th Annual Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society (1885), the 61st Exhibition of the National Academy of Design (1886), the Watercolor Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago (1889) and the 46th Exhibition of Watercolors at the Boston Art Club (1892).

Following in her sister's path, Lucy studied at the National Academy of Design and in 1883 was awarded an honorable mention as one of the academy's best pupils.³ In 1885, her illustrations of an English Mastiff and Stag Hound were engraved by Gaston Fay and published in *The Century* magazine.⁴ In 1891, Lucy exhibited at the 10th Autumn Exhibition at the National Academy of Design and at the Brooklyn Art Association.

Despite a 15 year age gap, the Fenner sister's art careers intersected. In 1890, they exhibited at the 65th Annual Exhibition of the National Academy of Design. As active members of the Orange Art Association [Orange, N.J.], they exhibited at the Association's Annual Exhibitions in 1891 and

¹ Naoma Welk, *South Orange Revisited* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 9, 59.

² *Summary Report of the Operations of the Cooper Union* (New York: The Cooper Union, 1871-72), 10.

³ S.R. Koehler, *The United States Art Directory and Year-Book, Volume 2*, (New York: Cassell & Co., 1884), 16.

⁴ *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, Volume 8; Volume 30*, (New York: The Century Co., 1885), 530, 533.



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1893. Regarding Lucy's oil paintings in the latter exhibit, a critic stated that they were "well designed and not smoothly finished. Her study in roses is an attractive and finely-colored bit".⁵

Together, they went on to exhibit in the Woman's Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois where their work hung side by side.

Never married, the sisters were life-long companions and lived the remainder of their lives together. Emily Fenner died in 1921 at the age of 71. Lucy continued to make art and in 1928, she exhibited at the 12th Annual Exhibition of work by Montclair artists held at the Montclair Art Museum.

Lucy T. Fenner, "known for frequently exhibiting her landscapes in the area"⁶ died in June, 1948 at the age of 83 in South Orange, New Jersey.

⁵ "The Fine Arts at Orange", New York Times (New York, NY), May 1, 1893, p. 9.

⁶ "Deaths in Jersey" The Courier-News (Bridgewater, NJ), Jun 3, 1948, p. 10.