



HAWTHORNE Fine Art

Alice Elizabeth Hugy (1876-1971)

American Impressionist Alice Elizabeth Hugy was born in Solothurn, Switzerland and emigrated to the United States at six years of age. She was raised in Minnesota by her uncle and received her artistic education at the St. Paul School of Fine Arts. In 1897, while still a young art student, a critic for the *Minneapolis Journal* declared, “Her work, when she has become proficient enough to master her pigments and technique, will be revolutionary. It is strong, intense, and full of the grand passion of nature.”¹

In 1910, Hugy exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair.² In 1915, she exhibited with fellow students from the St. Paul School of Fine Arts at the St. Paul Hotel.³ In 1926, Hugy had a one-woman exhibition comprised of oils, watercolors, and pastels at the St. Paul Public Library.⁴ In 1927, the artist received an honorable mention for her watercolor landscape titled *Trees and Snow* at the 13th annual exhibition of the work of artists of Minneapolis and St. Paul held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She exhibited again with the Twin City Artists at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts the following year.

In 1928, Hugy was awarded \$50 and first prize for her still life, *Green Apples*, at the Minnesota State Fair.⁵ Her oil paintings exhibited in the 14th annual Twin City Artist’s Work exhibition was compared to the work of Renoir by a critic from the *Star Tribune*.⁶ In 1931 and 1932, Hugy contributed floral works to exhibitions held by the Minneapolis Woman’s Club. The *Star*

¹ “Art Work at Mendota,” *The Minneapolis Journal* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Mon, Sep 13, 1897, 5.

² “State Fair Art Show Reveals New Talent,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sun, Aug 29, 1954, 67.

³ “200 Pictures are Shown by St. Paul Art Students,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Wed, Jun 16, 1915, 13.

⁴ “Society,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Wed, Mar 17, 1926, 10.

⁵ “Albinson Wins Fair Arts Prize,” *The Minneapolis Star* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Tue, Aug 28, 1928, 11.

⁶ “Marked Originality Shown in Twin City Artist’s Work Exhibited at Art Institute,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sun, Oct 7, 1928, 63.



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Tribune lauded Hugy's "sumptuous"⁷ still lifes which depicted "gorgeous larkspur, their tall blue loveliness blending artistically with yellow poppies and pink phlox in a darker vase set on a table covering of blue with orange motifs. Another of her entries is called 'Yellow Lily,' and is a stately, decorative thing in a background of green."⁸

In 1935, Hugy was the exhibition chairman for an exhibition of St. Paul artists held at the St. Paul Public Library and sponsored by Club Montparnasse.⁹ In 1936, an exhibition of Hugy's work was sponsored by the state art division, Minnesota Federation of Women's clubs.¹⁰ In 1954, more than four decades after Hugy first exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair, she became one of several artists to have a one-person show at the fair. The *Star Tribune* declared her work to be, "Outstanding."¹¹

During her lifetime, Hugy exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Minnesota State Fair, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.¹²

⁷ "Local Artists Display Canvases in Two Exhibits," *The Minneapolis Star* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sat, Apr 30, 1932, 30.

⁸ "Minneapolis Women Try Art as Avocation and Exhibit It at Woman's Club Salon Tea," *The Minneapolis Star* (Minneapolis, Minnesota) Wed, Apr 8, 1931, 9.

⁹ "Tea to Open Art Exhibit in St. Paul," *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sun, Mar 17, 1935, 55.

¹⁰ "Federation District Wins Award for Art Activity," *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sun, Mar 15, 1936, 56.

¹¹ "State Fair Art Show Reveals New Talent," *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota) · Sun, Aug 29, 1954, 67.

¹² "Federation District Wins Award for Art Activity," *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Sun, Mar 15, 1936, 56.