

## The Emerson Art Collection

The Emerson art collection was started by Everett A. Spaulding, with the donation of a copy of Rembrandt's *Mother* by the Class of 1911. Following Emerson's first art exhibit in 1919, graduating classes began donating original oil paintings to the collection. The Class of 1920 donated 14 original oil paintings to the school. By 1931, a total of 38 paintings had been donated to the school at a cost of \$14,093.00. Two additional paintings were donated between 1933 and 1939; and three between 1939 and 1948. A portrait of E.A. Spaulding was donated by the Class of 1949.

In 2008, when the original building at 716 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue was closed, the paintings were crated under the supervision of veteran art teacher, Steve Sutton. But, instead of moving the collection to the new quarters of the Emerson VPA in Miller, they were placed into storage by the Gary Community School Corporation. Attempts by alumni and other interested parties to examine the collection, now estimated to be worth a half million dollars, have, thus far, proven fruitless. Rumors persist that some of the paintings may have disappeared. The lack of institutional memory within the School Corporation, as well as the absence of accountability, have just fueled these rumors. Yet, the Gary Community School Corporation has a moral obligation to give alumni and others an honest accounting of what paintings they have in their possession. It was, after all, the Emerson students who, over a thirty year span, donated these paintings to the school with the understanding that they would be preserved and protected for future generations.

1. After the Snow – Albert Krehbiel – 1920 - \$200.00
2. Autumn Morning – Carl R. Krafft – 1920 - \$1,200.00
3. Autumn on the Creek - Charles Dahlgren – 1923 - \$250.00
4. Blue and Gold – Carl R. Krafft – 1920 - \$150.00
5. Calves in Pasture – Eugenie Glaman – 1920 - \$125.00
6. Cattle Near a Wood – Eugenie Glaman – 1920 - \$200.00
7. Desdemona's Palace – Oliver Grover – 1922 - \$250.00
8. Fleecy Clouds – Karl A, Buehr – 1923 - \$150.00
9. Fluttering Leaves – Lucie Hartrath – 1921 - \$350.00
10. In the Dunes – F.C. Peyraud – 1920 - \$200.00
11. In the Hot House – William Clusman – 1920 - \$150.00
12. In the Pasture – Karl A. Beuhr – 1921 - \$225.00
13. Lamp Effect – Arvid Nyholm – 1925 - \$350.00
14. Leafy Screen – Edgar Cameron – 1920 - \$175.00
15. Marine – Frederic Tellander – 1925 - \$500.00
16. Overlooking Quebec – John F. Stacey – 1920 - \$350.00
17. Surf and Rocks on the Pacific – Anna Lee Stacey – 1920 - \$250.00
18. The Home of the Moose – J. A. Spelman – 1925 - \$600.00
19. The Pet Chicken – Ada W. Shulz – 1924 - \$225.00
20. The Sentinels – Lucie Hartrath – 1920 - \$250.00
21. The Trail of the Wind – Frank V. Dudley – 1925 - \$300.00
22. Wheatfield (aka The Ash Tree) – Allen Philbrick – 1920 - \$200.00
23. Winter in Brown County – Charles Dahlgren – 1920 - \$150.00
24. Wood Interior – Karl A, Beuhr – 1920 - \$150.00
25. Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates – Jessie Wilcox Smith – 1929 - \$350.00
26. Hurry Up Jim – George E. Albright – 1930 - \$250.00
27. The Pool, Montreuel, Summer – George Ames Aldridge – 1930 - \$600.00
28. Gary at Night – Alexis Jean Fournier – 1930 - \$500.00
29. Night – Frank V. Dudley – 1930- \$1000.00
30. The Song of the Forest – Adolph Heinze – 1930 - \$350.00
31. The Big Oak – J. W. Vawter – 1930 - \$175.00
32. March Storms (Grand Canyon) – Carl Hoerman – 1930 - \$500.00

33. Segovia Spain – Charles Killgore – 1930 - \$800.00	
34. The Carmen Gate – Charles Killgore – 1930 - \$75.00	
35. In Mexico – Charles Killgore – 1930 - \$75.00	
36. Shelter – Paul Sargent – 1930 - \$200.00	
37. Autumn Days – J. A. Spelman – 1930 - \$400.00	
38. Lumberville – E. W. Redfield – 1931 - \$2,600.00	
Total	\$14,093.00

### **Oil paintings acquired after 1931 (as of 1939)**

- 39. Goose Step – Gerald Frank
- 40. Aunt Mary – Rudolph Ingerle

### **Oil paintings acquired after 1939 (as of 1948)**

- 41. The Orchid of the Chrysanthemum – June Burkholder
- 42. Mums – Ginney Cleo
- 43. Old Fashioned Yellow Roses – Leole W. Loop

### **Oil Paintings acquired after 1948**

- 44. Everett A. Spaulding – artist unknown (1949)

Emerson also owned color reproductions in oil of the “Holy Grail Series,” by Edward Austin Abbey, the originals of which are in the Boston Public Library. These hung in the center of the third floor hallway.

Blanchefleur  
The Castle of Maidens  
The Death of Amfortas  
Galahad the Deliverer  
Lathely Damsel  
Soloman’s Ship  
The Castle of the Grail  
The City of Sarras  
The Conquest of the Seven Sins  
The Departure  
The Golden Tree  
The Key of the Castle  
The Oath of Knighthood  
The Round Table of King Arthur  
The Vision

The collection also included Elson prints, color reproductions, and color engravings, fifty in number, as of 1948.

#### Sources:

- The Gold and Gray Book.** Gary, Indiana: Emerson School, 1933.
- Catalog of Pictures Owned by the Gary Public Schools,** 1939.
- Catalog of Oil Paintings Owned by the Gary Public Schools,** 1948.

*Compiled by Kendall Svengalis, Emerson class of 1965*