Vera Andrus

Image:


BLACKSTONE

Born in Plymouth, Wisconsin, Vera Andrus attended the Minnesota School of Architecture and Minneapolis Institute of Arts. In 1934, she won a scholarship to the Art Students League in New York, studying there with Boardman Robinson, George Groz and Eugene Fitsch.
She printed her lithographs in small editions, from 20 to 50, making them more difficult to find as time goes on. While she also produced watercolors, oil paintings, and book illustrations, lithography was her life-long devotion. “The first time I drew on a lithographic stone, “ she once stated, “I felt as though I had turned a corner and found something that I had been looking for all of my life.” By 1970 she had created some 75 lithographs, relying throughout her career on the talents of master printer George C. Miller and his son Burr.
From 1931 to 1957, she was a staff member at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, commuting from Dobbs Ferry in the Hudson River Valley, where a prominent and wealthy branch of the Andrus family had settled. In the 1930’s she traveled to Canada’s Gaspe Peninsula and Nova Scotia, and in the 1950’s went to France on a scholarship. Both voyages proved inspiration for some of the stunning images her. Finally she came to live and work for many years in Rockport, Massachusetts, where she died at 83.
She was a member of numerous art associations including the American Artists Group, Rockport Art Association and the Hudson Valley Art Association. In 1950 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Art, London.
She was awarded several prizes, and her work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and others. She also exhibited at the Whitney Museum, Carnegie Institute, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Art Institute of Chicago, among other, and had one-woman shows at the Smithsonian Institution, the Rockport Art Association, and elsewhere.
She authored three books: *Sea Bird Island*, (Harcourt Brace, 1939); *Sea Dust*, (Wake Brook, 1955); and *Black River, A Wisconsin Story*, (Little-Brown, 1967.) The first two are also illustrated by the author, and we are pleased to offer two original scratchboards from *Sea Bird Island* here.
In 1980, June and Norman Kraeft of the June 1 Gallery in Connecticut held and important retrospective of her work featuring some 40 lithographs. Adding significantly to the information available on the artist, the show demonstrated her significant contribution to lithographic art in the 20th Century.

Country of origin:

United States

Life Span:

1896 - 1979

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