

Alice Stambaugh (1920-2014)

“Alice was born in 1920 in Connecticut, majored in art at Skimore College (class of ‘42) and went to work in advertising and illustration for a Hartford jeweler. WWII brought marriage and huge changes including a life in rural Montana and children. In the 1950's the family moved to New Mexico where she painted landscapes in oil and worked for a photographer. Eventually the family settled in Colorado where Alice returned to a serious study of painting with watercolors. In the images below are two painting examples of aspen leaves and winter trees. She loved the natural world and many Sundays involved driving to the mountains or to the prairies for sketching. She gathered a group of artists to join in painting twice a month at each other's homes, began to exhibit, to attend workshops and eventually earned her favorite degree letters, the "CWS" used to denote the members of Colorado Watercolor Society.

A shocking shift in Alice's paint palette occurred when my father died. Out with the old colors and in with new supplies and ideas. Designerly, non-representation works in prismatic color became important. These "Rambling Geometrics" allowed Alice's design sense to dance to new tunes. She painted poetry, current events, memories of childhood, observations of the new century, and her emotions of being a woman in old age - but not old!

She passed away in February of 2014 while preparing for a show of the AMBUS artists at the Rogue Gallery. I am still struck by the fresh colors and ideas that this 93 year old woman was pursuing. She made art every day because it was her way to breathe and think, and it made her happy. I think these paintings will make others happy, too.”

--Betsy Moore