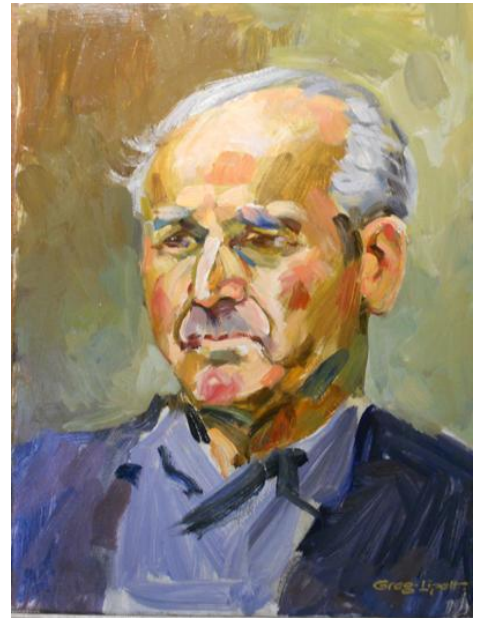


## In Memorium

### THE ED SHIMEK STORY AND ONE ARTIST'S REFLECTIONS

Ed Shimek was born in 1920 to parents of Czech and German ancestry. The "old country" was never far away when Ed was growing up. It was a hard life for Ed and his 6 siblings (one sister) in large part because Ed's dad left the family around Ed's 10th birthday. His father came to see Ed at school, to say his last goodbye; Ed pleaded with him to stay but his dad said, "No, I can't take it anymore". The kids never saw him again.



Portrait of Ed Schimek by Greg Lipelt

As a young adult, Ed found himself in the thick of WW2 and was wounded, earning a purple heart. After the war Ed attended the Walker School of Art in Minneapolis (no longer in existence). Although he studied art he apparently had no interest whatsoever in going into commercial art. He painted and eventually wound up supervising janitorial services for the Minneapolis Public Library system. I am not aware of any info out there about how he got interested in art or who may have encouraged him along the way. I know he was offered a chance to meet Grant Wood once but declined. Modesty perhaps. He did share a studio with noted local plein aire painter Olexa Bulavitsky at 11th and Franklin in South Minneapolis for a number of years and obviously learned a lot about painting from Olexa, his chief mentor/role model in his art life.

Mysterious is the best word to describe Ed. He was an endearing artist because of the low profile he kept coupled with the dedication he showed. It would be easy to overlook him. Never one to pontificate or get into art theory and he steadfastly refused to do any teaching or demo-ing, something which may have limited his career a little. Humble and quiet, he could surprise you with strong opinions about art and he had a competitive streak as well, having once dreamed of getting a spot on the U. S. Olympic speed skating team. He was a lady's man, loved to flirt and it was always fun to see him light up when a young lady gave him some attention and rouse him up out of his reserve. Always the reflexive smile and cheerfulness upon first meeting. Ed loved ballroom dancing, golf and tennis too. His reserve didn't keep him from winning many, many awards at the State Fair and other shows around the country, nor did it prevent him from becoming a signature member of Midwest Watercolor Society. He and Olexa took many trips together into the early 90's to places like Mexico, the North Shore and Florida.

I will always remember Ed's work for the bold, direct approach to watercolor in which he composes what he's painting with a series of color spots, much like Prendergast - almost an oil painting-like approach. I will always remember his beautiful handling of grays and greens in a quiet palette and his sometimes unorthodox choice of subjects. I recognized an affinity for his work because we are both striving for the same goal: the discovery of a meaningful shorthand to describe the big simple things underlying the complexities of nature. Ed and I last went on a North Shore trip in 2001 and he was painting occasionally until about a year ago when he went into assisted living. About the same time I began to hear him say he couldn't find the motivation to do it anymore and it apparently had become a physical ordeal as well

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Recently I'd heard he'd been grouching about not getting enough respect. That's true for a lot of us but I suspect this unheralded painter will eventually gain some recognition which has eluded him. He had a humble, fulfilled art life which he lived quietly, preferring not to draw attention to himself. He is survived by children Laurie and Dan, two grandchildren, a brother, and nieces and nephews.

Many thanks to **Greg Lipelt** for writing about our dear friend Ed Shimek.

MAA has received \$550.00 in donations in memory of long time member Ed Shimek. We would like to thank all of Ed's family, Paul & Lori Dooley, and Lois and Harry Heim for their generous donations. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Ed's family. He will be greatly missed by all of us!

### **Exhibition of Eleanor Conrad's work**

MAA member **Juliet Anderson** has organized a retrospective exhibition of **Eleanor Conrad's** paintings which will include some drawings from the 1930's. The exhibition will be upstairs at Thrivent for Lutherans in downtown Minneapolis during the month of February. Thank you, Juliet, for giving us this rare opportunity to see Eleanor's early work!

### **February Meeting**

Our next meeting will be at the **Bloomington Art Center**, upstairs in the classrooms, on **Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:30-9:30 p.m.** Bring your favorite media to sketch or paint the clothed model. Judy met our model at Walgreens and says she has unusual beauty! As usual we'll have some coffee and goodies and wonderful fellowship! 4 of our new members attended the January meeting. Hope we can have a great turnout this month!

## Member News

**Judy Lieber** is showing at Curran's restaurant for the months of February and March. For those of you who don't already know, some MAA members meet for breakfast at Curran's on Wednesdays around 8:30-9:00 a.m. All artists are welcome! It's a good way to get to know one another!

**Rachel Trockman's son Mark Trockman** does the photo journalism for Lakeshore Weekly News. This week's issue B section features the art shanties on Medicine Lake with his dynamic photo of a robot shooting off a rocket. Follow this great local newspaper.

You can click on the following link and see the photos in this issue. The art shanty images start with the fourth one and there are four of them.

<http://weeklynews.com/main.asp?SectionID=41&SubSectionID=64&TM=40912.08>

**Tom Dimock** will be showing at Black Dog Coffee Shop at 308 Prince St. in St. Paul for the Winter Carnival exhibit from January 23 thru February 5.

Tom will be at Artists for Abundance 2012 at Northrup King Dock 5 from March 1-3. March 1 – Judge's awards 7 p.m., March 2 – 5-9 p.m., March 3 (Last Day) – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Rita Corrigan, Judy Lieber, Marjorie Moody and Emmy White** have been accepted into the 17th Annual **Arts in Harmony** National Juried Art Show in Elk River at the Sherburne County Government Center. The opening reception and award's

ceremony is Sunday, February 12, 1-3:30 pm. The exhibition dates are February 6 through March 29, 2012.

**Emmy White**, along with five other artists known as The Escape Artists, will be having a very exciting March show at Hopkins Art Center. Each artist will have their rendition of twelve masterpiece paintings. In all there will be 72 contemporary paintings inspired by famous works of twelve influential historic masters. Opening Reception is on March 3, 2012 6-8PM. Postcards will be mailed to MAA members.

Come to **First Thursdays at Northrup King Building** in NE Minneapolis, 1500 NE Jackson Street this **Thursday, February 2, 5-9 p.m.** MAA artists with studios in NKB: **Emmy White (Studio 321), Rita Beyer Corrigan and Marjorie Moody (both in Studio 392), Bruce Palmer (Studio 410).**

### **Our Website**

Check out our website at **[www.minnesotaartistsassociation.com](http://www.minnesotaartistsassociation.com)** and see what a terrific job **Nayla Yared** has done for us! If you haven't already done so send your images to **[nayla@yared.info](mailto:nayla@yared.info)** for the Gallery. Your own personal website can be linked to the MAA website also! Thank you, Nayla!

Nayla says there are some good opportunities for the artist to exhibit with the Plymouth art council. There is the big spring exhibit where artists (from everywhere) can submit up to 3 pieces. There is a banner contest as well as Art Display in the City and it is open to all artists, not only from Plymouth. For more details, check the website: **[www.plymouthartscouncil.org](http://www.plymouthartscouncil.org)**. The different opportunities and applications are under the menu "CREATE".

Remember that we are on facebook also thanks to **Jeannie**

**Stroth!** Check it out!

**Happy Valentine's Day!**