

LANCE WOOD HART PAINTING
Wayne Morse Family Farm Living Room
Eugene, Oregon

Untitled, 1927

Lance Wood Hart (1891-1941)

Oil on Masonite

The harbor scene is believed to be of the Aberdeen and Gray's Harbor area in Washington. A smaller oil sketch for this painting, 9½ inches by 12 inches, is in the collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon.

Born in Aberdeen, Washington, Lance Wood Hart received his professional training at the Chicago Art Institute and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm, Sweden. His figurative work and his landscapes of the mid-teens and early 1920's display a unique regional appropriation of European Post Impressionist technique to his Pacific Northwest subjects. This is especially true of his landscapes of Aberdeen and Gray's Harbor.

While still at the Chicago Art Institute, Hart won numerous awards and exhibited in 1915 at their prominent national exhibition. During this time, he also earned a fine reputation as a stage actor and set designer. He continued to work in theater productions in Chicago and Washington State but eventually devoted his career to painting, printmaking and art instruction.

In the Northwest, he received a great acclaim for his sensitive works both in oil and watercolor. He exhibited in most of the region's finest venues and won numerous local awards. In 1931 Hart relocated to Eugene, Oregon to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Drawing and Painting at the University of Oregon. He became a beloved and influential instructor. In 1938 he published the book Observation Technique in Figure Drawing.

Around 1940, he was selected to complete a mural for the Treasury Department Section of Fine Arts in the United States Post Office in Snohomish, Washington. This mural entitled "The Construction of a Skid Road in the Eighties" is now housed at the Snohomish City Hall.

Lance Hart was also a significant influence on the Aberdeen-born artist Robert Motherwell, whose respect and admiration for his early instructor is evident in their existing letters. Motherwell refers to Lance Hart as the first artist he ever met. In 1939 Lance Hart arranged for Motherwell to teach with him at the University of Oregon. Hart had suffered a stroke and had trouble talking. Motherwell took charge of the art appreciation class, and they both taught the studio painting class.

Information provided by Kenneth O'Connell, Professor Emeritus of Art, University of Oregon, and David Martin, Martin-Zambito Gallery, Seattle, Washington. 2016