

Lilias Marianne Ar de Soif Farley

May 2 1907 - 1989

Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (Diploma 1929)

P.A.S.O.V.A.S. (President)

Vancouver Arts and Letters Club (Member)

Vancouver School of Art Graduate's Association (Member)

Honourable Mention Royal Society of Arts, England (1930)

Sculpture Society of Canada

B.C. Society of Arts (Member 1938-51-?)

Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts

Northwest Institute of Sculpture

International Institute of Arts & Letters, Switzerland (Life Fellow)

Lilias Farley was born in Ottawa in 1907, and moved to Vancouver with her family in either 1923 or 1924. She started classes at the VSDAA in 1925, and was in the first graduating class in 1929, later exhibiting in the PASOVAS group exhibition at the B.C. Art League gallery in 1930. She was a sculptor in wood, a theatre designer, and a craftsman producing puppetry.

Farley was a member of P.A.S.O.V.A.S., the Pioneer Art Students of Vancouver Art School, an artist's group formed in 1930 from the students who entered the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts in its first year and a half of classes in 1925 and 1926. She was also a student of Harry Tauber's.

She was "highly commended" for her textile designs at the British Empire Industrial Arts Exhibition in London, England, 1930. She had work in the PASOVAS group exhibition in 1936, at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Farley began exhibiting her paintings and sculptures with the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1936, showing 10 works in six exhibitions up to 1947. In 1945 she showed a wood carving at the British Columbia At Work exhibition, also at the Vancouver Art Gallery. She became a member of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in 1938, and exhibited her work in their annual exhibitions in 1942, 1943, and 1949.

She was on a list titled "Leading Vancouver Artists," provided to the Labour Arts Guild on April 10, 1946 by the Vancouver Art Gallery to assist in the Guild's call for entries to the second annual B.C. At Work exhibition.

She was a "designer, muralist, and sculptor in realism, semi-abstractation, and abstraction". She completed two murals and decorative bronze details for the Hotel Vancouver that was completed in 1939 in time for the Royal visit, as well as carved patterns for the Vancouver Post Office.

Later in her life she lived and taught art in Whitehorse, Yukon, where she died in 1989.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

| DATE | EXHIBITION | LOCATION |
|------|------------|----------|
|------|------------|----------|

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

| DATE | EXHIBITION | ARTWORK |
|------|------------|---------|
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|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1930 Nov. 27 - Dec. 7 | <u>PASOVAS</u> <u>Art Club Exhibition</u> | Tree Panel Program cover Cover "Backstage" Cover "Spring" Copper Paper Weight "Archie From Australia" Undersea Grain Elevators Screen Design Design "Bellingham Ferries" Design "Barclay Street" Large Design "Backstage" Elephant Noir Hand-blocked curtains "Livingston in Deepest Africa" Woven rugs Handblock curtain "Chickens" |
| 1932 Oct. 5 - 30 | <u>VAG</u> <u>1st Annual B.C. Artists</u> | Decorative Panel |
| 1933 May 3 - 18 | <u>VAG</u> <u>VSAGA 1st Annual Exhibition</u> | Shacks Beaux Arts Poster Marionette Designs Costume Designs Decorative Head Panels Head of Madonna Hand Woven Purse Silk Theatrical Mask Nubian Slave Boy Marionette |
| 1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15 | <u>VAG</u> <u>2nd Annual B.C. Artists</u> | Congo Child |
| 1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14 | <u>VAG</u> <u>3rd Annual B.C. Artists</u> | Mediaeval (sic) Maiden |
| 1936 Feb. 21 - Mar. 5 | <u>PASOVAS</u> Annual Group Show | (titles?) |
| 1938 April 29 - May 15 | <u>BCSEFA</u> <u>28th Annual</u> | Spring Form Native Dance |

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| 1942 May 15 - 31 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>32nd Annual</u> | West Coast Indian Mask Decorative Head Ypaana Photo of the sculpture purchased by I.B.M. |
| 1943 May 15 - June 6 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>33rd Annual</u> | Carving in Mahogany |
| 1945 Nov. 13 - Dec. 2 | <u>Labour Arts Guild</u> <u>B.C. At Work</u> | Carving |
| 1946 July 2 - 28 | <u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u> | Pavanne |
| 1948 May 18 - June 6 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>38th Annual</u> | Figure in White Mahogany |
| 1949 May 3 - 22 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>39th Annual</u> | Figure in Mahogany |
| 1950 April 25 - May 14 | <u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual</u> | Figure in Mahogany Angel |

References

WHO'S WHO IN NORTHWEST ART edited by Marion Brymner Appleton

"A Directory of Persons in the Pacific Northwest Working in the Media of Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, and Handicrafts".

1941; published by Frank McCaffrey, Seattle Washington.

Good reference to Farley.

100 YEARS OF B.C. ART (refer to VAG58)

FARLEY, LILIAS MARIANNE AR DE SOIF

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts - Exhibitions and Members 1880 - 1979

1981, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2366-5

List of six exhibitions and ten artworks

BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN ARTISTS 1885-1985 (refer to AGGV85)

FIRST CLASS - Four Graduates From The Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts

1987, Letia Richardson; The Floating Curatorial Gallery at Women in Focus

Exhibition catalogue; ISBN 0-921823-03-7

Includes survey essay of women artists in Vancouver.

Chronologies of Liliias Farley, Irene Hoffar Reid, Beatrice Lennie, and Vera Weatherbie.

FARLEY, Liliias M.

A Dictionary of Canadian Artists, Volume 1, A - F, 5th Ed. Revised & Expanded 1997

Colin S. Macdonald, Canadian Paperbacks. ISBN 0-919554-21-0

A CENTURY OF SCULPTURE (refer to SSBC98)

ART BC, MASTERWORKS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA by Ian M. Thom

2000, Douglas & McIntyre Ltd., ISBN 1-55054-808-5

232 pages illustrated in colour and b&w

Farley biography page 64, work "Jack-in-the-Pulpit" illustrated page 65.

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF ARTISTS IN CANADA

2003, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2790-3
250 pages; 9 pages of *works cited* referenced to 8,800 artists
4 references *cited* for Farley.

A MODERN LIFE: Art and Design in British Columbia 1945-1960 (refer to [VAG04](#))

Vancouver School of Decorative & Applied Arts - List of Students

Clippings

"**Lilias Farley**, who shows several figure designs, has also two excellent woodcarvings which might almost be termed figurines for their small perfection. They are beautiful pieces of work both as regards technique and design."

From "Pasovas Club Has Splendid Annual Show"
Vancouver Province, November 6, 1934

"Margaret Williams, Maud Shearman (sic), and **Lilias Farley** are well represented in the show,"

From "Pasovas Art Show"
Vancouver Sun, November 6, 1934

"... **Lilias Farley** ... are all represented."

From "PASOVAS EXHIBIT - Pioneer Art Students' Show" by (unknown)
Daily Province, February 21 1936

"Lilias Farley, who is famous as sculptor and painter, too, exhibits some striking Indian decorative heads."

From "B.C. Society of Fine Arts Display Sets New High Mark," by Palette
Vancouver Daily Province, May 16, 1942

"... Lilias Farley (was elected) honorary secretary ..."

From "B.C. Artists' Display To Calgary For Exhibition," by Palette
Vancouver Daily Province, May-June 1942