

Thomas William Fripp

March 23 1864 - May 30 1931

Vancouver Studio Club and School of Art (Founding Member)
B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Founding Member)(President 1909-1916, 1926-1931)
Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver (Member 1931)
Island Arts and Crafts Society (Member)
B.C. Art League (Member)
British Columbia Artist (B.C.A., 1921)

Thomas Fripp was born in London, England, on March 23, 1864. He was the youngest son of George Arthur Fripp, court painter to Queen Victoria. He was a grandson of Nicholas Pocock, one of the founders of the Royal Water Colour Society, England. Fripp completed art training at St. John's Wood Art School, followed by a year in Italy studying in Venice, Florence, and Sienna. He returned to England and took further training at the Royal Academy. He moved to Canada in May, 1893, arriving first in Quebec and then moving to Hatzic, British Columbia.

In 1893 Hatzic would have been a far cry from the civilized centers of London and Europe. The rigours of homesteading were perhaps too much for him, and he moved with his wife to Vancouver. He worked in a Vancouver photo studio, and taught art at Crofton House private girl's school, in addition to having his own art studio.

Fripp showed his work in the first annual exhibition of the Vancouver Arts and Crafts Association in 1900. He was a member of the Vancouver Studio Club formed around the turn of the century. This group became the nucleus for the B.C. Society of Fine Arts (BCSFA) founded in 1908. Fripp jointly served as the BCSFA's first Vice-President with Bernard McEvoy.

Fripp exhibited with the Art Association of Montreal in 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918.

Fripp exhibited in the 1920 Annual Exhibition of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts, held at the Vancouver School Board offices on Hamilton Street.

Fripp led sketching trips to the B.C. Interior, in 1921 and 1922 at least. In 1922 he led a trip with R.S. Sherman, Maud Sherman, Mabel Bain and others to Pemberton Meadows and Darcy, reported in the Western Women's Weekly in the July 29, 1922 issue under the title "Sketching Trip Enjoyed." In 1922 Fripp wrote a long article titled "The Case of Local Artists", which was published in the column "Artists and Their Doings" in the Western Woman's Weekly in the July 29th issue.

In 1929 Fripp exhibited four paintings in the Citizens' Loan Exhibition of Water Colors sponsored by the B.C. Art League at their "temporary gallery" in the Hudson's Bay Company store at 649 Seymour Street. Fripp also loaned a number of paintings by his father George A. Fripp to the exhibition.

Fripp was one of only three local artists to display work in The Founders Collection, the first exhibition held

at the Vancouver Art Gallery when it opened in October 1931, although he was not alive to enjoy the honour.

Fripp was a fairly prolific painter, working mostly in watercolour but occasionally in oil. He specialized in landscapes, expressing the B.C. mountains and coast in atmospheric veils of mist and cloud. He was one of many artists who visited and painted Savary Island, and two of his paintings of the island ("Old Wharf, Savary Island", and "Savary Island") were included in the Special Exhibition of his work at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1931, the year he died.

He also exhibited with the Royal Canadian Academy in 1928 and in 1930. His work is in the collection of the National Gallery, Ottawa, Government House, Ontario, and Government House, B.C.

Fripp had a long and distinguished career in Vancouver - as an artist, as a teacher, and as an ardent and hard-working contributor to numerous arts groups, including the B.C. Art League, the Vancouver Sketch Club, the Studio Club, the Island Arts & Crafts Society, the Palette and Chisel Club, and the Art, Historical, and Scientific Association of Vancouver. A memorial bronze bust of Fripp was commissioned by the Citizens of Vancouver, sculpted by Charles Marega, and is now in the collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Fripp variously signed his work Thomas W. Fripp; Tom W. Fripp; Tom Fripp; T.W. Fripp; and T.W.F.

A memorial exhibition of Fripp's paintings was held at the Vancouver Art Gallery after his death in 1931.

Also, per card file at Vancouver Art Gallery Library:

B.C. Society of Fine Arts: 1926, May 1929, November 1929; 1936; 1960; 1967

Island Arts and Crafts Society: 1912 - 1930

Vancouver Exhibition: 1925; 1930 (representing both BCSFA and Vancouver Sketch Club).

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
1909 April 20 - 28	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>First Annual Exhibition</u>	The Quiet Hour Storm in the Hills Pitt Lake Sunrise Over Sumas Mountain Golden Lakes Autumn Morn (Hatzic Lake) Portrait
1909 June 19 - July 17	<u>Studio Club</u> <u>Exhibition of Pictures</u>	A Grey Morning When the Sun is Low A Cloudy Day

1909 November	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Second Exhibition</u>	Low Water, Silver Creek Passing Clouds Autumn Glow, Stave Lake, B.C. Cloudy Day View from Bridal Veil Falls, Pitt Lake
1910 May	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Third Exhibition</u>	Jocelyn Fripp Sunset After a Storm Beginning of Bush Fire March Clearing After Rain When the Wind Blows in From the Sea
1912 Nov. 25 - 30	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u>	Arbutus, Albert Head, B.C. Towards Evening, Oak Bay Moraine Lake - Laggan Lake Louise - a grey day Mt. Sir Donald Mt. Temple from "Saddle Back" Asulkan Glacier from Mt. Abbott Lake Agnes Snow Flurry, Mt. Aberdeen Souvenir of Venice Stave Lake Carved Panel
1915 April	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Works by Members</u>	Consolation Valley Lake McArthur, Canadian Rockies Mt. Aberdeen, Laggan Mt. Babel, Valley of the Ten Peaks View from Hatzic, B.C. Mt. Temple from Sentinel Pass
1917 Sept. 14 - 22	<u>B.C.S.F.A.</u> <u>Eleventh Exhibition</u>	Willows, Hatzic Along the Coast A Sunny Day Willows The Asulkan Glacier, B.C

1920 September 18 - 25	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u>	<p>Fir Trees Sentinel Pass, Canadian Rockies Mt. Sir Donald Glacier B.C. Lake Agnes, Canadian Rockies The Old Barn Autumn The Old Bridge, Hatzic Island Decorative Landscape Eiffel Mountain, Paradise Valley The Lions From North Vancouver The Day's Awakening View of Mount Sir Donald</p>
1921 Sept. 19 - 24	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>13th Annual Exhibition</u>	<p>Autumn Floods The Stave Alta Lake, P.G.E. Railway Wamalkin, B.C. Sunset, Pitt River Misty Morn A Sunlit Shore Dwarf Pines, Alta Lake</p>
1922 Sept. 16 - 23	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>14th Annual Exhibition</u>	<p>Autumn Mist, Cheakamus, B.C. Souvenir D'Arcy Summit, Gates Lake, Birken, P.G.E. Moraine Lake, Laggan Green Lake, P.G.E. Alta Lake, P.G.E. Along the P.G.E. near Rethel, B.C. D'Arcy Evening Sunset Glow, Anderson Lake, P.G.E.</p>
1923 May 12 - 19	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>15th Annual Exhibition</u>	<p>Peep of Mount Whistler, Alta Lake B.C. Garibaldi Lake The Black Tusk, Garibaldi, B.C. Mt. Sir Donald, Glacier, B.C.</p>

		A Grey Day, D'Arcy Towards Evening, Anderson Lake Anderson Lake, B.C. Mt. Bident, Consolation Valley, Alta. Early Morning, Cheakamus, B.C.
1924 May 3 - 17	<u>BCSFA 16th Annual Exhibition</u>	A Gray Day, Hatzic, B.C. Lulu Island A Quiet Evening, P.G.E. Railway Mount Alpha, from Chee Kye D'Arcy Glacier, Sunset Shores of Pitt Lake Yellow Pine, P.G.E. Peep of the Lions The Glacier
1924 Aug. 9 - 16	<u>Vancouver Exhibition Annual Exhibition</u>	Mount Whistler, Alta Lake, B.C. Yellow Pines, P.G.E. Ry. Edge of the Lake
1925 May 9 - 16	<u>BCSFA 17th Annual Exhibition</u>	Mt. Babel Garibaldi Lake: A Gray Day View of Mt. Stephen, Can. Rockies Near the Summit of Mt. Omega, Early Morning The Upper Squamish, B.C. Along Anderson Lake, B.C. Harrison Lake, B.C. Mt. Deltaform (Valley of the Ten Peaks) Aloutte (sic) Lake, B.C. "Autumn", Fraser Valley
1926 May 8 - 15	<u>BCSFA 18th Annual Exhibition</u>	Mt. Fay, Morning Mists Across the Lagoon, Comox, B.C. Still Waters, Alta Lake Part of Glacier The Sentinels Sunrise Through Smoke

1927 June 10 - 25	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>19th Annual Exhibition</u>	Near Hatzic Alouette Lake Valley of Devolation View on Pitt Lake
1929 May 18 - June 8	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>21st Annual Exhibition</u>	Part of the Hermit Range An Old Orchard, Hope B.C. Rock, Snow and a Grey Sky Mt. Cheops, Glacier B.C. Vanishing Vancouver The Snows of March Towards Evening, Jervis Inlet The Tantalus
1929 October	<u>BCAL</u> <u>Citizens' Loan of W/C</u>	Autumn on the Coast (B.C.) Guardians of Vancouver Eiffel Mt., Paradise Valley Sunset on the Hermit Range Alta Lake Mt. LeFroi & Glacier Mount Blanchard
1929 Nov. 16 - 30	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Winter Exhibition</u>	Johnstone's Straits Klemtu, B.C. from S.S. Cardena Gill Island, B.C. Seymour Canyon, B.C. The Rain Storm from S.S. Cardena Skeena River, B.C. Chatham Sound, B.C., from the S.S. Cardena
1930 May 31 - June 14	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Spring Exhibition</u>	Lulu Island Pitt Lake (tree study) Rock Study, Mt. Aberdeen Tranquility Snow Traceries, Mt. Temple Along the Coast, B.C. Mountains and Lakes, B.C. Up Kutze Inlet Pitt Lake, B.C. Yellow Pine, Anderson Lake Forest and Stream The Black Tusk, Garibaldi Park

1930 Aug. 6 - 16	<u>VanExh</u> <u>Oil Paintings & Water-colours</u>	Sechelt Gill Island, B.C. Chatham Sound, B.C. Storm Clouds, Jervis Inlet Mountain and Lake, B.C. Cheops, Glacier, B.C. Mountain and Lake, B.C.
1931 October 5 - ?	<u>Vancouver Art Gallery</u> <u>The Founder's Collection</u>	Pitt Lake, B.C. Near the Summit - "Omega," Tantalus Range
1932 May - July	<u>VAG</u> <u>All Canadian Exhibition</u>	Mt. Blanchard, Pitt Lake Mt. Tupper
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u>	Passing Shadows, Jervis Inlet After the Storm, Stave Lake
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u>	Glacier on D'Arcy Range

References - BIBLIOGRAPHY

Refer to BIBLIO.

References - GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITIONS OPENING
THE NEW VANCOUVER ART GALLERY** (refer to VAG51)

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

References - GENERAL

ISLAND ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB 5th ANNUAL EXHIBITION (refer to IACS14)

Mr. Thos. W. Fripp

Museum and Art Notes February 1927, Vol. II, No. 1

Published by the Art, Historical, and Scientific Association of Vancouver.

The Late T.W. Fripp by *Greenjacket*

Museum and Art Notes June 1931, Vol. VI No. 2; pages 60-61 (includes photograph)

Published by the Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver

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.

Short reference to Fripp.

EARLY PAINTERS & ENGRAVERS IN CANADA by J. Russell Harper

1970 (reprinted 1972, 1976, 1981); University of Toronto Press
ISBN 0-8020-1630-8; 376 pages; includes extensive list of abbreviations & bibliography
Includes short reference to Fripp.

CREATIVE CANADA - VOLUME TWO, by University of Toronto Press

1972; ISBN 0-8020-3285-0
Includes half a column of concise information about Fripp

THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SKY by Lorne E. Render

1974, Glenbow-Alberta Institute; published by McClelland and Stewart West
ISBN 0-7712-1001-2; 224 pages, illustrated throughout in colour and b&w
Includes biographical information on Fripp and one of his paintings illustrated

ISLAND ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY - LIST OF EXHIBITORS

ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS - EXHIBITIONS AND MEMBERS 1880 - 1979

1981, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2366-5
Definitive list of Academy members, includes a list of all exhibited paintings
Two RCA exhibitions listed for Fripp.

PHILLIPS IN PRINT - The Selected Writings of Walter J. Phillips on Canadian Nature and Art

Selected and Edited by Maria Tippett and Douglas Cole
1982, The Manitoba Record Society Publications, no ISBN, 160 pages
Includes short article on Fripp by Phillips, originally published 1926 and 1931.

MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS *formerly Art Association of Montreal* Spring Exhibitions 1880 - 1970

1988, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2650-8
418 pages; 4 pages of *works cited* referenced to over 3,000 Canadian artists
Exhibited 9 paintings from 1915 to 1918.

A CENTURY OF SCULPTURE (refer to SSBC98)

Not listed in MACDONALD'S DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN ARTISTS VOL. 1 A - F

BEYOND THE CANVAS - Artists, Stories and the Sea by Jennifer Breckon and James P. Delgado

Featuring the Mary and Bill Everett Family Collection
2000, ISBN 0-9695221-4-2; exhibition at the Vancouver Maritime Museum; illust. in colour
Exhibition included work by **Fripp**

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
17 references listed for Fripp.

Clippings

"Of the water colors, it was generally conceded that Mr. T.W. Fripp's drawings simply stood alone, being the only work which may be said to be really representative of the genuine old school of water color,

painting and following the traditions of this truly English art; in some of W. Fripp's warm, broad, sunny effect, notably in a charming little sketch of Southwold, and near Streathy, on the Thames (England), one recognizes the influence of a great master who for nearly half a century was closely connected with the water color society."

From "British Columbia Letters, No. IV", by (unknown)

The Canadian Architect and Builder 1900

"**Mr. Tom Fripp's** "Venetians Threading Beads" is a new departure for him (*Ed.: in oil*) . . . In water colors, Mr. Ferris showed but four small drawings, while in this class the only other exhibitor was **Mr. Tom Fripp** whose large drawing "Chill October" is the most important work that artist has shown here. His sketches "Venice" and "Burrard's Inlet," are full of light and atmosphere. In black and white, the same artist was the sole contributor, principally portrait studies in chalk or pencil."

From "British Columbia Letters, No. VII", by (unknown)

The Canadian Architect and Builder 1901

"... T.W. Fripp ... and several other artists have clearly proved that round Vancouver is a real "artist's country"."

"Vancouver Studio Club Spring Exhibition"

B.C. Saturday Sunset, July 3 1909

"At this moment I am not aware of the arrangements made for art lectures or "gossips" during the exhibition. I hope there will be several. The lecture on watercolors by Mr. Fripp was both interesting and instructive and such lectures tend to make art something more than a means of "home adornment" - a real factor in the building up of a good fabric of society."

"The Studio Club Autumn Exhibition", by Felix Penne,

B.C. Saturday Sunset, October 30 1909

". . . and **T.W. Fripp** . . . are artists who contribute admirable exhibits."

"Vancouver Studio Club", by Felix Penne

B.C. Saturday Sunset, November 6 1909

"Among its members ... is Thos. W. Fripp, a son of the eminent water colorist of the same name ... "

From "Art in British Columbia", by Bernard McEvoy

Opportunities Magazine, 1910

"The exquisite finish and refined character of Mr. Tom Fripp's watercolors are known beyond the limits of Vancouver. He is one of the few artists in the present exhibition who seem to have arrived at a definite style and whose pictures, to use a phrase common with art dealers, are "signed all over". He has five small pictures of a high class in the present exhibition."

From "With The B.C. Artists", by "A Visitor"

Vancouver Daily Province, September 27 1916

"The work of a painter of mountains in another medium is seen in the masterly water-colors of Mr. Tom Fripp, who carries out and improves upon the traditions of the Royal Watercolor Society of England, of which his father was a distinguished member. There is a delicacy and refinement in Mr. Fripp's method, combined with a poetic sense of the grandeur of his subjects, which make his work very attractive, and the examples which he shows in the present exhibition can not fail to arrest the beholder by their marvellous execution and finish."

From "Local Work is on View" by Bernard McEvoy

Vancouver Daily Province, October 2 1919

"The work arranged was varied and interested. Mr. Tom Fripp showed some of his beautiful landscapes, including "Lake Louise", "The Lions", from North Vancouver, "A Grey Day On The Coast", and "Old Hatzic Bridge", also a very finely executed landscape in charcoal."

From "Vancouver Sketch Club"

Western Woman's Weekly, October 9 1920

"... one is rather glad to see some of the earlier apostles of art in our midst still sticking to their good old style. This is especially noticeable in the magnificent mountain pictures by **Thos. W. Fripp**, who has five in the present show, all of them of a covetable nature, but even here there is a touch of modernism in this artist's "Mount Lefroy Glacier," No. 59."

From "B.C. Society of Fine Arts" by Bernard McEvoy

Vancouver Daily Province, April 28 1928

"**Tom Fripp** at his best, with seven of his water colors at astonishingly low prices which in London would fetch double the money, should receive the notice of collectors. His "Near the Head of Pitt Lake, B.C." has the note of grandeur he has attained in his interpretation of our mountains, and so has the other big one."

From "B.C. Society of Fine Arts", by Diogenes

Vancouver Daily Province, November 13 1930

"Thomas W. Fripp may well be considered one of the most pioneer artists of British Columbia. Born in London, in 1864, he migrated to the Western Province in 1893, where, for a few years, he worked at the arduous task of clearing a bush farm. Before coming to Canada he had studied art with his father, G.A. Fripp, R.W.S., and also in France and Italy. An accident which injured his hand led him to give up farming and return to his painting. For thirty years he was active as a water-colour painter, producing many pictures of the mountains and Pacific Coast. He was a founder member and first president of the British Columbia Society of Artists, organized in 1917 (sic). His death, in 1931, removed an artist who deserves a place of importance in the history of art in British Columbia."

From *Canadian Landscape Painters*, Albert H. Robson; page 188

The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1932