

Art & Artists in Exhibition: Vancouver 1890 - 1950

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Miss Edith Beatrice Catharine Lennie ("Bee")**June 16 1906 - 1987**

Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (Diploma 1929)

P.A.S.O.V.A.S. (Founding Member)

California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco (Post Graduate)

Vancouver School of Art Graduate's Association (Member)

B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Elected Member 1931)

B.C. College of Arts (Assistant Instructor)

Beatrice Lennie School of Sculpture (Founder)

Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)

Beatrice Lennie was born in Nelson, B.C. Conflicting records give her birthdate as either 1904 or 1906. Her father Robert S. Lennie, K.C. (King's Council) was a lawyer who supported the arts. The family moved to Vancouver in 1911. She attended Crofton House School and studied art under [Kate Smith Hoole](#).

Lennie started classes at the [VSDAA](#) in 1925, and was in the first graduating class in 1929. Her graduation piece, done under sculptor [Charles Marega](#), was a large sculpture known as "The Spirit of Mining", alternately "Mining". This sculpture was mounted over a fireplace in the Lennie home in Shaughnessey for many years, until a later owner of the house donated it to the Provincial Museum. The sculpture apparently did not make it to Victoria, and in 2004 was in the collection of the B.C. Museum of Mining at Britannia Beach, B.C.



Lennie won best costume design at the the first Beaux Arts Ball at the Hotel Vancouver in 1929.

She was a founding 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, and was later a member of the [Vancouver School of Art Graduate's Association](#).

She exhibited her work in the 1930 [Spring Exhibition](#) of the [B.C. Society of Fine Arts](#). Later that year she exhibited in the PASOVAS [group exhibition](#) at the [B.C. Art League](#) gallery.

After returning to Vancouver from her post-graduate studies in San Francisco, Lennie was hired as an assistant instructor at the [B.C. College of Arts](#), founded in 1933 by [Frederick Varley](#) and [Jock Macdonald](#). Lennie's father was a patron of the College. Unfortunately, his support could not be enough, and the College closed for financial reasons in 1935. Lennie was forced to do something different.

In 1936, the [Spring issue](#) of *The Smock Pocket* noted that Lennie had opened the [Beatrice Lennie School of Sculpture](#), at 1522 13th Avenue (Granville and 13th). Lennie had work in the PASOVAS [group exhibition](#) in 1936, at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#). She designed large panels that were installed in the [Hotel Vancouver](#), later either removed or covered up. She also created a sculpture for the Federal Post Office, Vancouver, and a dedication plaque for the Patullo Bridge in New Westminster.

She had a solo exhibition with the Picture Loan Society, Toronto, in 1937. She exhibited her work, or photographs of her work, with the [Royal Canadian Academy of Arts](#) in 1932, 1938, 1951, and 1953. She also showed her work in one exhibition of the [Art Association of Montreal](#), at the National Gallery of Canada, with the Sculptor's Society of Canada in Toronto, and at the Seattle Art Museum.



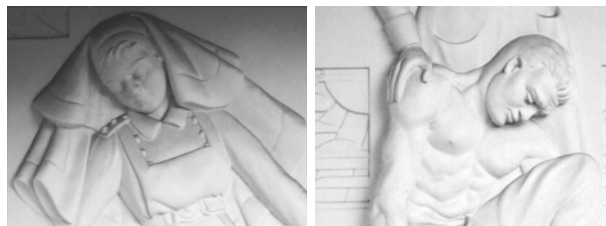
In 1942 Lennie took part in a three-women show at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) with [Mabel Bain](#) and [Kate Smith Hoole](#). She was on a list titled "[Leading Vancouver Artists](#)," provided to the [Labour Arts Guild](#) on April 10, 1946 by the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) to assist in the Guild's call for entries to the second annual *B.C. At Work* exhibition. Lennie was Director of Children's Saturday Morning Classes at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) for ten years, and also taught art at Crofton School for seven years.



Her sculptural work remains scattered around Vancouver for our viewing pleasure. Her large panel for the Labour Temple on the north side of the 300 Block West Broadway is one of the easier ones to see, as is the recently re-painted bas relief of Asclepius on the medical building on the west side of Burrard between Broadway and 10th Avenue, completed in 1951.



Much harder to find, but excellent historical sculptures and well worth the hunt to view, are the two five foot wide by eight foot high stone panels she carved to flank the main entrance doors of the Shaughnessy Military Hospital, 1940. However, the doors are no longer the main entrance, as the Children's and Women's Hospital has been built in front of them, so that they are now only one of a pair of doors that open into an interior courtyard outside the new cafeteria. To see them, go to C&W, find the cafeteria, go out into the courtyard. On your right and up one level will be the original main entrance. Go up the stairs, the panels are on either side of the doors at the top of the stairs.



Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
1938 July 12 - 27	Six Local Artists	VAG
1942 Dec. 8 - 20	Three Woman Show	VAG
1948 April 27 - May 9	Solo Exhibition (34 artworks)	VAG

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
1930 May 31 - June 14	BCSFA Spring Exhibition	Portrait Head Alan Cameron
1930 Nov. 27 - Dec. 7	PASOVAS Art Club Exhibition	Decorative head "Guinivere" Book ends "Baby Antelope" Sun dial in art stone
1932 May - July	VAG All Canadian Exhibition	Bust of Col. Goodwin Study - Marianne
1932 Oct. 5 - 30	VAG 1st Annual B.C. Artists	Bobbie (Baby's Head)
1933 May 3 - 18	VAG VSAGA 1st Annual Exhibition	Roof Tops
1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14	VAG 3rd Annual B.C. Artists	"Repose", Carving in Stone Bandana (Head)
1936 Feb. 21 - Mar. 5	PASOVAS Group Exhibition	(titles)
1938 April 29 - May 15	BCSFA 28th Annual Exhibition	Still Life April
1942 Nov. 3 - 15	FCA Red Cross Benefit	(no information available)
1946 July 2 - 28	VAG Jubilee Exhibition	Contemplation
1946 Sept. 21 - Oct. 13	VAG 15th Annual B.C. Artists	Flower Piece
1947 July 8 - 27	B.C. Artists Summer Exhibition	Summertime
1950 April 25 - May 14	BCSA 40th Annual Exhibition	The Birch Basket Louise Nursing Sister

References

WHO'S WHO IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1937-38-39

A Record of British Columbia Men and Women of Today

S. Maurice Carter Editor & Publisher

Copyright 1939, printed by The Robson Printers, Vancouver B.C.

208 pages, hardcover; name index (8 pages), biographies (196 pages), obits. (4 pages)

Includes reference to **Lennie**

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 Lennie.

WHO'S WHO IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1944-45-46

A Record of British Columbia Men and Women of Today

S. Maurice Carter Editor & Publisher

Copyright 1945, printed by Atlas Printers, Vancouver B.C.

312 pages, hardcover; index of names (14 pages), biographies (290 pages)

list of abbreviations (2 pages), advertising including the only portrait in the book

Includes reference to **Beatrice Lennie**

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

LENNIE, EDITH BEATRICE CATHARINE

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

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

A GUIDE TO SCULPTURE IN VANCOUVER (refer to [GSV80](#))

NOT JUST PIN MONEY, Barbara K. Latham & Roberta J. Pazdro, Eds.

1984, published by Camosun, Victoria.

Includes essay: *From Pastels to Chisel: the Changing Role of BC Women Artists*

Essay includes references to [Josephine Crease](#), Sister Mary Osithe, [Ina Uthhoff](#), and **Beatrice Lennie**.

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.

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

One work listed in 1935 exhibition: "Orphan Boy", chalk drawing.

LENNIE, Beatrice (Edith Beatrice Catharine Lennie)

A Dictionary of Canadian Artists, Volume 3, Jacobi - Lismar, 3rd Edition Revised 1991

Colin S. Macdonald, Canadian Paperbacks. ISBN 0-919554-20-2

One and a half page biography, with footnotes.

EARLY BRITISH COLUMBIAN WOMAN ARTISTS (refer to [HG95](#))

A CENTURY OF SCULPTURE (refer to [SSBC98](#))

VANCOUVER ARTIST: Beatrice Lennie

2000 April; by Michael Clark, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.

Visions newsletter, Volume 6 Issue 3, page 6.
One page biography with 3 illustrations of her work.

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
Biography page 54, illustration of sculpture *Night Flight* page 55.

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
5 references cited for Lennie.

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

PUBLIC ART IN VANCOUVER - ANGELS AMONG LIONS (refer to [PAV09](#))

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - B.C. ARTISTS FILES (refer to [VPL](#))

Clippings

"**Beatrice Lennie**, who devotes her talents to sculpturing, is represented by her first canvas, an interesting and promising departure from her modeling. She is also showing several colorful small sketches. Her most noteworthy work, however, is a piece of stone carving, "Repose.""

From "[Pasovas Club Has Splendid Annual Show](#)"
Vancouver Province, November 6, 1934

"**Beatrice Lennie** has two carvings, and several oils, as well as a pencil portrait study."

From "[Pasovas Art Show](#)"
Vancouver Sun, November 6, 1934

"... **Beatrice Lennie** ... are all represented."

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

" ... Among those contributing paintings and drawings are: ... **Beatrice Lennie** ... "

From "[Noted Artists Offer Paintings For Red Cross](#)"
Vancouver Daily Province (presumed), November 1942

"**Beatrice Lennie: A Sculptor of the West**" by [J. Delisle Parker](#)
Canadian Review of Art & Music, 1947, Vol. 5, No. 6-7, pages 22-24,50.