

Art & Artists in Exhibition: Vancouver 1890 - 1950

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John Frederick Delisle Parker *(Palette)*

1884 - September 28 1962

Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)
B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Member 1941 Executive 1946-47)

J. Delisle Parker was born in New York City, and moved to England with his family at the age of nine. He was brought up near Stratford-on-Avon, where his father was American Consul in Birmingham and London. Parker was interested in theatre, and also studied art at the Croydon Art School. He studied art in Paris for five years in a number of schools including the Sorbonne and the Academie Julien, notably under Jean-Paul Laurens. He also studied in New York under Robert Henri.



He wrote for the *McGill News* between 1931 and 1934, also illustrating his articles, before moving to Vancouver in 1934. That year in October he had a solo exhibition of Oils, Watercolours, and Drawings at the Vancouver Art Gallery, with a catalogue of works available. The show was well received by the press.

From 1940 to 1959 Parker wrote an arts column for the *Vancouver Province* under the pseudonym of *Palette*.



He had more solo exhibitions at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) in 1937, 1943, and 1951, as well as work in small group shows in 1938 and 1939. [Lawren Harris](#) wrote an introduction to Parker's 1951 [exhibition catalogue](#), lauding Parker's work and referring to him as "a poet in paint", in addition to recommending that the public invest in Parker's work.

Parker also exhibited in the [1944](#) and [1945 British Columbia At Work](#) exhibitions; the 1947 *B.C. Artists' summer* exhibition; and the juried 1948 [17th Annual B.C. Artists](#) exhibition, all held at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#).

He 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.

He also exhibited with the [B.C. Society of Fine Arts](#) in their annual exhibitions in [1942](#), [1943](#), and [1949](#).

He submitted three ink drawings and a drypoint to the [1949 B.C. Graphic](#) exhibition at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#), only the drypoint was selected for the exhibition.

He signed his early artwork John Parker, then John F. Parker, and then finally J. Delisle Parker.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
1934 October 19 - 28	Exhibition of Paintings & Drawings	Vancouver Art Gallery
1938 March 8 - 20	Oil Paintings	VAG
1938 July 12 - 27	Six Local Artists	VAG
1939 July 4 - 23	Six Local Artists	VAG
1943 Jan. 29 - Feb. 18	Tunisian Sketches	VAG
1951 April 3 - 22	Exhibition of Oils and Watercolors	Vancouver Art Gallery

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
1942 May 15 - 31	<u>BCSFA 32nd Annual</u>	Sunday in the Park
1942 Nov. 3 - 15	<u>FCA Red Cross Benefit</u>	(no information available)
1943 May 15 - June 6	<u>BCSFA 33rd Annual</u>	Outside Walls of Sfax The Plum Tree Fraser Canyon
		Indian Reservation, North Vancouver
		Liner in Port
1944 Nov. 21 - Dec. 10	<u>Labour Arts Guild 1st B.C. At Work</u>	Track Gang
1945 Nov. 13 - Dec. 2	<u>Labour Arts Guild 2nd B.C. At Work</u>	Landing Fish
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG Jubilee Exhibition</u>	The City
1946 Sept. 21 - Oct. 13	<u>VAG 15th Annual B.C. Artists</u>	The Old Carr House, Victoria Ritual Mask Dance, B.C. Indians
1947 July 8 - 27	<i>B.C. Artists</i> <u>Summer Exhibition</u>	Land of Hope and Glory The Old Carr House
1948 May 18 - June 6	<u>BCSFA 38th Annual Exhibition</u>	The Barrier Fraser Canyon Burrard Bridge, Winter
1948 Sept. 18 - Oct. 10	<u>VAG 17th Annual B.C. Artists</u>	The Canyon On the Thompson River
1949 May 3 - 22	<u>BCSFA 39th Annual</u>	Rockbound Rock Forms Evening Surf, Barrier No. 2 On the Thompson River Gateway to the Canyon
1949 Nov. 22 - Dec. 11	<u>VAG First B.C. Graphic</u>	The Prophet
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA 40th Annual Exhibition</u>	Forbidden Plateau Grain Elevator Forms

References

SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITIONS OPENING THE NEW VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (refer to [VAG51](#))

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

PARKER, John Frederick Delisle (Palette)

A Dictionary of Canadian Artists, Volume 5, Nadeau - Perrigard, 1st Edition Reprint 1996
Colin S. Macdonald, Canadian Paperbacks. ISBN 0-919554-13-X

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
7 references *cited* for Parker.

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

"French Honour Artist's Work. John Deslisle Parker, Well Known Here, Showing in Paris Exhibition"
The Daily Colonist, Victoria B.C., August 15, 1931

"Former Local Artist Coming. John D. Parker, Eminent Painter, Arrives From Paris"
The Times, Victoria B.C., April 26, 1934

"Artist to Give One-Man Show"
The Daily Colonist, Victoria B.C., October 11, 1934

"A Gentleman Adventurer" by Edgar Brown
(*newspaper unknown*), October 18 1934

"Clever Artist Has Fine Exhibit Displayed Here" by T.H.W.
News-Herald, October 23 1934

"Fine Display of Paintings by J. Parker" by (unknown)
Daily Province, October 24 1934

"Well-known Vancouver artists recently elected (BCSFA) members include ... J. Delisle Parker ..."
From "[B.C. Artists' Display To Calgary For Exhibition](#)," by [Palette](#)
Vancouver Daily Province, May-June 1942

"... Among those contributing paintings and drawings are: ... John Delisle Parker ..."
From "[Noted Artists Offer Paintings For Red Cross](#)"
Vancouver Daily Province (presumed), November 1942

"Following his trend in legendary subjects J. Delisle Parker is showing a large vertical panel called
"Drake sees the Olympics" ... "
From "[Notable Exhibits of Artists' Work](#)" by [Mildred Valley Thornton](#)
Vancouver Sun (presumed), May 1944

"... Gazing at J.W.G. Macdonald's painting ... are: ... John Delisle Parker ..."
From "[For and about WOMEN](#)"
Vancouver Daily Province, April 22, 1950

"'Palette' Exhibit - Paintings Capture Life of Far-Away Places"
Daily Province, Vancouver, B.C., August 26, 1953

"Genuine Romanticism in Parker's Work" by *The Critic*
(*newspaper unknown*), (date unknown)

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