

Maisie Robertson (Miss)

April (3?) 1910 - c2000

Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (Diploma 1931)

Vancouver School of Art Graduates' Association

B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Member)

Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)

Maisie Robertson was born in Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. in 1910.

A number of her grade school drawings were published as prize drawings in School Days magazine, published by the Vancouver School Board.

Robertson was an early graduate from the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts, receiving her diploma in Drawing and Painting in 1931.

The Spring 1936 edition of *The Smock Pocket*, the Vancouver School of Art Graduates' Association newsletter, noted that she had a studio at a new address of 1225 Harwood Street.



She had a portrait titled *Norma* in the 1932 All Canadian Exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The portrait may be of her fellow art school student Norma Park. Maisie exhibited in the annual *B.C. Artists* exhibitions, including 1933, 1936, 1938, 1939, from 1941 to 1945, and from 1947 to 1950.

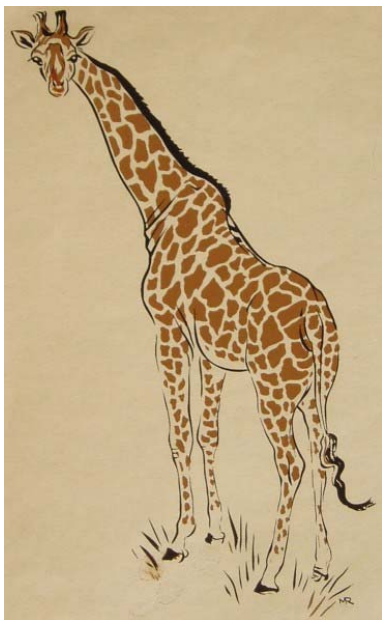
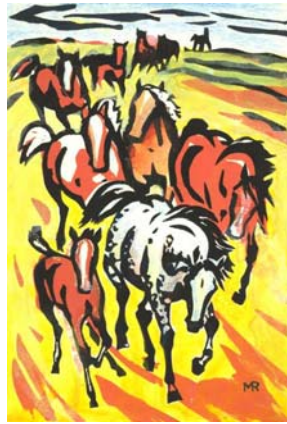
Robertson won the Beatrice Stone Medal for her work "Polo Pony" in the 1938 *B.C. Artists* exhibition.



A biographical entry form for the 1942 show stated that she was was living at Cultus Lake, and had been living in B.C. since 1910. She also had work in the British Columbia At Work exhibition in 1945 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The following images are all greeting card designs by Robertson that were donated to CARFACS for production of silk screen printed and hand painted cards that the society used for fundraising. A number of well-known BC artists contributed designs, but I don't know if there is a catalogue anywhere listing all of the cards that were produced over the years. Robertson clearly gave them a lot of designs. None of these cards are dated. The giraffe and the herd of running horses cards are in the collection of the editor, the rest of the cards are in the collection of Mrs. Violet Kinnear, who kindly allowed me to photograph them.





She was a part-time instructor at the Canadian Institute of Associated Arts, and also at St. Marina's School.

Maisie Robertson 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 exhibited one painting in the 1948 Stanley Park in Pictures exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery, although the list of exhibitors gave her last name as Robinson.

Maisie exhibited with the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in many of their annual exhibitions, including 1942, 1943, and 1949. Her illustration of three horses was used as the cover image for the 1949 exhibition catalogue.



She submitted four drawings to the 1949 B.C. Graphic exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery, two of them were selected for the exhibition. She was living in Vancouver. She also had a solo exhibition at the Gallery in 1949.

In the 1950s Robertson travelled to Africa to stay with family, and produced a number of paintings and prints from her travels there, including a large two-colour block print of a giraffe used as a greeting card. One of these cards was sent to her long-time friend Maud Sherman and is now in the collection of the editor.



The British Royal family commissioned a number of artworks from Robertson for decorating their "getaway cottage" in Nairobi, Africa.

A biographical sketch of Robertson was published in VISIONS, the newsletter of Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, in the March 1998 issue.

Robertson provided an [artists statement](#) to the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1953.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
Mar. 22 - April 10 1949	Cariboo Sketches	VAG

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
1932 May - July	VAG All Canadian Exhibition	Norma
1933 May 3 - 18	VAG VSAGA 1st Annual Exhibition	Portrait Dog Show Poster Black Cat
1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15	VAG 2nd Annual B.C. Artists	Tiger
1936 Feb. 21 - Mar. 5	PASOVAS Annual Group Show	(titles?)
1942 May 15 - 31	BCSFA 32nd Annual	Loon Lake Road Strawberry Roan
1943 May 15 - June 6	BCSFA 33rd Annual	Bay, Grey and Roan Fawns Colt (sculpture)

1945 Nov. 13 - Dec. 2	<u>Labour Arts Guild</u> <u>B.C. At Work</u>	Beef Drive Spring Plowing The Road to Loon Lake
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u>	Bays
1947 July 8 - 27	<u>B.C. Artists</u> <u>Summer Exhibition</u>	Standard Bred
1948 May 18 - June 6	<u>BCSEFA</u> <u>38th Annual Exhibition</u>	Bays Blue Herons
1948 July 27 - Aug. 15	<u>VAG</u> <u>Stanley Park in Pictures</u>	Cutting Out Brands
1948 Sept. 18 - Oct. 10	<u>VAG</u> <u>17th Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Colts
1949 May 3 - 22	<u>BCSEFA</u> <u>39th Annual</u>	Spring Plowing Early Morning, False Creek Foal Siesta Thoroughbred
1949 Nov. 22 - Dec. 11	<u>VAG</u> <u>First B.C. Graphic</u>	Summer Afternoon Horses and Sage
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u>	

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 information, address at 2154 York Street, Vancouver.

RETROSPECT - CERAMICS 80 (refer to PGBC80)

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

ROBERTSON, Maisie

A Dictionary of Canadian Artists, Volume 7, Rakos - Sadowski, 1st Edition Reprint 1996

Colin S. Macdonald, Canadian Paperbacks. ISBN 0-919554-19-9

VANCOUVER ARTIST: Maisie Robertson

1998 March; by Michael Clark, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.

Visions newsletter, Volume 4 Issue 2, page 7.

One page biography with 2 illustrations of her work.

A CENTURY OF SCULPTURE (refer to SSBC98)

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

2 references *cited* for Robertson.

Clippings

"Exceptionally clever are **Maisie Robertson's** animal sketches. In her line drawings of a colt she has caught all of its awkwardness, in an amusing manner. Miss Robertson also shows several interesting animal carvings in wood."

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

"... **Maisie Robertson** ... are all represented."

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

"When searching for the "unusual" one day we came across prancing horses carved in walnut, book ends of Canadian buffalo carved from Canadian wood, and an absolutely captivating, sleepy donkey. We were told they were made by a girl who has a studio somewhere in the West End and who "does" animals. Eventually we found the studio in a sunny corner, and **Maisie Robertson** the carver in wood. She shares a studio with [Maude \(sic\) Sherman](#), already well known for her oils and water colors."

From "[GRADUATES IN ART](#)" by Cintra
(unknown newspaper), April 25, 1936

" ... together with oil and watercolour paintings by ... Maisie Robertson ... all contribute much to this extraordinary show."

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