

Maud Rees Sherman (incorrectly Maude, Shearman)

October 8 1900 - July 5 1976

B.C. Art League (Charter Member 1921)
Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (Founding Student 1925)
Pioneer Art Students of Vancouver Art School (PASOVAS) (Founding Member)
Vancouver Art School Students Club (Founding Member)
Vancouver Art Gallery (Charter Member, 1932)
Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)
B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Elected Member 1942, Honorary Secretary 1947-1951)

Maud Rees Sherman was born in Mission City, B.C. in 1900, at the start of the new century, and died in North Vancouver, B.C. in 1976. Her father R.S. Sherman was a prominent Vancouver educator, naturalist, author, and artist. Maud did not attend grade school - it was not mandatory at that time, and perhaps her mother and father felt they could give her a better education at home.

In 1908 Maud first visited Savary Island, a place she would later illustrate in many watercolours and pen and ink drawings. In 1912 a painting of Maud and her father by MacAdam was exhibited in the B.C. Society of Fine Arts annual exhibition. In 1919 she began illustrating her father's nature stories published in School Days magazine. This was a small pamphlet published by the Vancouver School Board for use in elementary schools as a supplementary reader. Eventually Maud had over eighty of her pen and ink drawings published in the magazine, for a wide variety of topics.



In 1920 Maud received a prize for a landscape watercolor at the Vancouver Exhibition.

Sherman exhibited in the 1920 Annual Exhibition of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts, held at the Vancouver

School Board offices on Hamilton Street.



In 1922 she and her father went on a sketching expedition led by Thomas Fripp. Maud and her father were charter members of the B.C. Art League when it formed in 1920. Maud was a member of the first class in the new Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts when it opened in 1925, and wrote a long article titled "Places To Sketch" in the first issue of "The Paint Box", the art school's annual. An example of her first year's artwork was also published in that Paint Box and again in the Prospectus for the 1926-1927 school year.



Another article by Maud, about taking design class from Fred Varley, was published in the second annual issue of The Paint Box. Maud was a founding member of PASOVAS, the Pioneer Students of Vancouver Art School. This was a group formed by those students who had attended the school in its first year and a half of its operation.

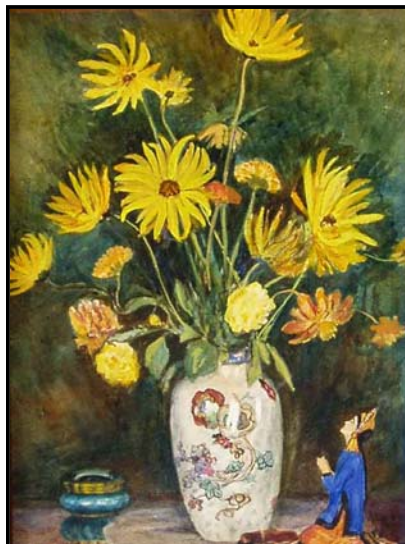
An undated published poem by Maud is currently in the collection of the Savary Island Heritage Society. The poem, titled "Vacation, British Columbia" is clearly about Savary Island ("long white beaches"), but it is not known why she would not "be getting any vacation this year...". Another poem, handwritten, is an undated love poem attributed to Maud Sherman, kept in a folder with the Vacation poem. It is not known to have been published, although it is quite possible that it was.



Although Maud attended the art school for its first four years, she did not graduate. It is said that she had been given the care of her niece June, born in 1920, after June's mother (Maud's sister-in-law) had returned to England without her. If so, this would have put Maud in the position of being like a young mother with a child, trying to go to school full-time, which might have made attendance difficult. It is also true that Maud did not really need to get a Diploma in order to make her career in art. In addition to her many illustrations published in School Days magazine, since 1925 she had been illustrating school books written by her father and others, published by J.M. Dent and Sons in Canada and England. These books became authorized texts in various provincial school systems, and widely distributed. She also illustrated a series called "Nature and Language Workbooks", exercise books for elementary school children, published by Dent.



Maud's father was one of the developers of Savary Island as a vacation resort in 1910, and she traveled there as early as 1908. She spent many summers on the island, and created a large number of paintings there. Maud exhibited her paintings extensively in Vancouver for over forty years, in both juried and open exhibitions. One of her paintings was selected from the juried Fifth B.C. Artists exhibition to go to an exhibition in Chilliwack. Others were selected for the All-Canadian Exhibition of 1932, and the B.C. Society of Fine Arts 40th and 50th Annual Retrospective exhibitions.



Although her classes under Varley had given her a good look at his bold style and new ways of painting, Maud continued to paint traditional landscapes, seascapes, and simple scenes around the home and neighbourhood, and from her travels around south-west British Columbia. Her flights of fancy extended to dinosaurs roaming around Kitsilano Point, and flowery meadows with larks singing and rainbows in the sky. Maud also carved and painted wooden jewellery for years, of such subjects as wolves, birds, and other animals.

In 1931 Maud's father R.S. Sherman published an article on Savary Island in *Museum and Art Notes*. The article included a pen and ink drawing by Maud of an arbutus tree on the island.

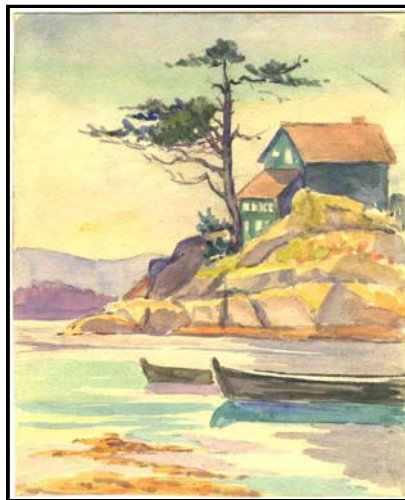
A letter from A.S. Grigsby, Business Manager of the Vancouver Art Gallery, dated October 20, 1933, was sent to Maud noting that her painting "House in the Valley" was sold from the 2nd Annual BC Artists exhibition. Mr. F.W. Rudolph purchased the painting for \$30.00. The letter was addressed to Maud at 1087 Bute Street.

She showed work in the *B.C. Artists* Christmas exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1933.



From at least 1933 to 1935 Maud had a studio in the West End of Vancouver, at 1087 Bute Street, in a house known as "Parakontas" (spelling varies) owned by Beatrice Lennie's grandfather. The large old West End house was divided up into a number of other studios. Other artists working there at that time included Fred Varley, Jock MacDonald, and Vera Weatherbie. It would have been a very exciting time to be in that studio, as those three artists were working at their new B.C. College of Arts Ltd. just a few blocks away on Georgia Street.

In 1939 one of Sherman's paintings in the 8th Annual *B.C. Artists* exhibition was selected (with 39 other works from the show) to be toured in the Maritime Provinces under the auspices of the Maritime Art Association.



During World War II the Shermans took a boarder into their house at 3642 Dundas Street - photographer Stuart Thomson. Maud's niece June had been hired as Thomson's assistant in 1939, and was later made his business partner. Thomson had arrived in Vancouver from Australia in 1910, and over the next fifty years took an estimated 50,000 pictures of Vancouver. Many of these pictures are on file at the Vancouver City Archives, the Vancouver Public Library North-West Room, and at the North Vancouver City Archives. A few of his personal photographs of the Sherman family at Christmas and New Year's parties remain in

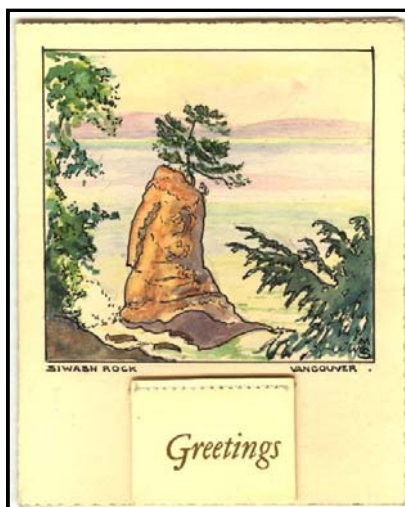
private collections.



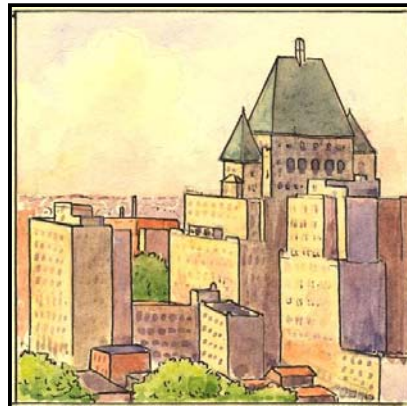
Maud exhibited with the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in many of their annual exhibitions, including 1930, 1942, 1943, and 1949.



She donated artwork to an FCA fundraising exhibition for the Canadian Red Cross at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1942.



Sherman 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.



Maud remained active in the B.C. Society of Fine Arts almost until it closed in 1967, her own art-making brought to a halt just a few years earlier by a crippling disease that left her unable to hold a paintbrush. She died in 1976, in a care home in North Vancouver. She was cremated, but the disposition of those ashes is not known - Maud herself now having disappeared almost as completely as her history. She never married, had no known children, and both of her brother's children died without issue. That whole part of their family tree disappeared except for a few remaining family photographs, and the paintings and illustrations that are the heritage from Maud's sixty years of artistry in Vancouver and British Columbia.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

| DATE | EXHIBITION | LOCATION |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2005 March 21 - June 24 | Places to Sketch (8 paintings) | Daily Grind Cafe, Vancouver |

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

| DATE | EXHIBITION | ARTWORK |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1920 September 18 - 25 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>12th Annual Exhibition</u> | Port Alberni Sunrise On Savary |
| 1930 May 31 - June 14 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>Spring Exhibition</u> | The Witch Tree The Eagle's Nest |
| 1930 Nov. 27 - Dec. 7 | <u>PASOVAS</u> <u>PASOVAS Art Club Exhibition</u> | Trout Pool, Phillips River Mission Cliff Gardens, California The Garden In Winter Upcoast Fishing Stream Euclataws Dawn At Phillips River Mouth of Phillips River Suburbs In Winter |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | Sketch "Kitsilano Beach" |
| | | Sketch "Ambleside Slough" |
| | | Book Illustrations of Fish |
| | | Book Illustrations of Fish |
| | | Book Illustrations of Animals |
| | | Windblown Firs |
| 1932 May - June | <u>VAG</u> <u>All Canadian Exhibition</u> | Dawn at Phillips River |
| 1932 Oct. 5 - 30 | <u>VAG</u> <u>1st Annual B.C. Artists</u> | Turn of the Tide, Yuculta |
| | | The Pool, Phillips River |
| | | Witch Trees |
| 1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15 | <u>VAG</u> <u>2nd Annual B.C. Artists</u> | The House in the Valley |
| | | Wind Blown Firs |
| 1933 Dec. 1 - 17 | <u>VAG</u> <u>B.C. Artists Christmas Exhibition</u> | (no information available) |
| 1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14 | <u>VAG</u> <u>3rd Annual B.C. Artists</u> | Spring Song |
| | | Frederic Arm |
| 1934 Nov. 2 - Nov. 18 | <u>PASOVAS</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u> | (watercolours, book illustrations) |
| 1934 Dec. 4 - Dec. 16 | <u>VAG</u> <u>B.C. Artists Christmas Exhibition</u> | Jim and Jane (#81) |
| | | Spring Song (#82) |
| 1935 Sept. 20 - Oct. 13 | <u>B.C. Artists 4th Annual</u> | Sunday Afternoon |
| | | Copper, Pewter and Cloisonne |
| | | Humming Birds |
| | | Comox Street in Spring |
| | | Under the Vine Maples |
| 1936 Feb. 21 - Mar. 5 | <u>PASOVAS</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u> | (no information available) |
| 1936 Sept. 18 - Oct. 11 | <u>B.C. Artists 5th Annual</u> | The Studio Window |
| | | Still Life |
| | | Under the Maples |
| 1938 Sept. 16 - Oct. 9 | <u>B.C. Artists 7th Annual</u> | Jervis Inlet |
| 1939 Sept. 15 - Oct. 8 | <u>B.C. Artists 8th Annual</u> | Near Cultus Lake |
| | | The Golden Ears |
| | | Aduddal's, Texada Island |
| | | Aduddal's, Texada Island |
| 1939 Oct. - ? | <u>B.C. Artists 8th Annual Selections</u> (Toured Maritime Provinces) | |
| 1940 Sept. 20 - Oct. 13 | <u>B.C. Artists 9th Annual</u> | Spring in the Woods |
| 1941 Sept. 26 - Oct. 19 | <u>B.C. Artists 10th Annual</u> | Locarno |
| | | On the Island |
| 1942 May 15 - 31 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>32nd Annual</u> | Morning |
| | | Sea Loot |
| 1942 Sept. 25 - Oct. 18 | <u>B.C. Artists 11th Annual</u> | High on a Windy Hill |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1942 Nov. 3 - 15 | <u>FCA</u> Red Cross Benefit | (no information available) |
| 1943 May 15 - June 6 | <u>BCSFA</u> <u>33rd Annual</u> | Forest Moment |
| 1943 Sept. 25 - Oct. 20 | <i>B.C. Artists</i> 12th Annual | By the Creek By the Silvery Sea |
| 1944 May 13 - June 4 | <u>BCSFA</u> 34th Annual | The Creekmouth, Gillies Bay On Texado (sic) The House by the Sea The House in the Grove |
| 1945 May 18 - June 10 | <u>BCSFA</u> 35th Annual | The Veterans Rampikes |
| 1946 July 2 - 28 | <u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u> | Sea Loot |
| 1947 | <u>BCSFA</u> 37th Annual | Golf at Savary |
| 1950 April 25 - May 14 | <u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u> | Spring in the Woods Trees on Savary |
| 1951 April 24 - May 13 | <u>BCSFA</u> 41st Annual | Edge of the Cliffs |
| 1954 May 25 - June 13 | <u>BCSFA</u> 44th Annual | From Indian River |
| 1956 Feb. 26 - March 18 | <u>BCSFA</u> 46th Annual | Secret Lagoon |
| 1957 March 5 - 24 | <u>BCSFA</u> 47th Annual | Out Back |
| 1958 Feb. 4 - 22 | <u>BCSFA</u> 48th Annual | Channel Markers |
| 1960 May 22 - June 12 | <u>BCSFA</u> 50th Annual | South Shore, Savary Arbutus Grove |
| 1961 May 10 - 28 | <u>BCSFA</u> 51st Annual | Abandoned Farm |

References

PLACES TO SKETCH

"*The Paint Box*", Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts Annual, Spring 1926

COMPOSITION

"*The Paint Box*", Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts Annual, Spring 1928

MUSEUM AND ART NOTES, Vol. VI, No. 1

March 1931; 42 pages, illustrated black and white

Published by the Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver

Includes article by R.S. Sherman on Savary Island

Pen & ink illustration by **Maud Rees Sherman** on page 12.

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.

Lists Maud Sherman as Secretary of PASOVAS 1940, address 1492 Harwood Street.

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

ARTISTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST - A Biographical Dictionary, 1600s - 1970

1993, by Maria Sharylen, published by McFarland
ISBN 0-89950-797-2; includes extensive 10 page index of groups and venues
Listing for Maud Sherman taken from *Who's Who in Northwest Art*

VANCOUVER ARTIST: Maud Sherman

1999 January; by Michael Clark, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.
Visions newsletter, Volume 5 Issue 2, page 6.
One page biography with 3 illustrations of her work.

STORMY WEATHER

1998; Maria Tippet, McLelland and Stewart, ISBN 0-7710-8524-9
See references pages 164 and 165 (mis-attribution as man).

LOOKING FOR MAUD, by Gary Sim, Sim Publishing

Unpublished narrative biography of the artist
Approx. 200 pages, illustrated

MAGNETIC ISLE - Gladys Bloomfield's Savary

2005; ISBN 0-9739209-0-4; 146 pages, illustrated in black and white
Edited by Conde Landale; published by Savary Island Heritage Society
Includes references to R.S. Sherman, **Maud Rees Sherman**, Laurencia Herchmer.

Clippings

"A water colour by Miss Maud Sherman was in charge of Miss Frances Keefer. This was afterwards won by Mrs. G.J. Ashworth... ..in the evening a fancy dress ball was held in the pavilion, the Savary Island orchestra providing music for the dancers... ..The costumes were particularly well done and becoming. Among those in fancy dress were the following: ... Miss Maud Sherman, flower girl..."

From "Savary Island" (fundraiser for the French Red Cross)
Vancouver Province, August 10, 1918

"The poetic side of her subjects appeals very strongly to Miss Maud Sherman."

From "In the World of Art"
Western Woman's Weekly, June 5, 1920

"...and Miss Maud Sherman carried off first prize for landscape in water colors."

From "Artists and Their Doings"
Western Woman's Weekly, September 18, 1920

"Miss Maud Sherman had two water color landscapes, both of which were excellent in colour and drawing."

From "Artists and Their Doings"
Western Woman's Weekly, October 9, 1920

"... and Miss Winnifred Shearman and **Miss Maud Shearman** (sic) suitably rewarded the efforts of those who tried their luck at fishing."

From "Annual Carnival at Savary Island Splendid Success"
(*unknown*), August 9, 1921

"The party consisted of Mr. R. Sherman and Miss Sherman..."

From "Sketching Trip Enjoyed"
Western Woman's Weekly, July 29, 1922

"Many other well-known artists are represented, including ... Maud Sherman ... "
From "Bargains in Art"
Vancouver Sun, December 1, 1933

"... while **Maud Sherman** is represented by small black and white drawings of animals" ...
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, the latter both in the fine art and handicrafts sections. Apart from her original water colors, **Miss Shearman** shows some of her animal book illustrations."
From "Pasovas Art Show"
Vancouver Sun, November 6, 1934

"... **Maud Sherman** ... are all represented."
From "PASOVAS EXHIBIT - Pioneer Art Students' Show" by (unknown)
Daily Province, February 21 1936

"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 ... Maud Sherman ... 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

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

"Among those contributing paintings and drawings are: ... Maud Sherman ... "
From "Noted Artists Offer Paintings For Red Cross"
Vancouver Daily Province (presumed), November 1942

"Other artists showing creditable work are ... Maud Sherman ..."
From "Notable Exhibits of Artists' Work" by Mildred Valley Thornton
Vancouver Sun (presumed), May 1944

"Gazing at J.W.G. Macdonald's painting ... are: ... Miss Maud Sherman ... "
from "For and about WOMEN"
Vancouver Daily Province, April 22, 1950