

SAN JUAN ISLANDS MUSEUM OF ART - OCTOBER 3, 2011

ANN WALBERT EXHIBITION

The San Juan Islands Museum of Art will be opening a new exhibition of paintings done by Ann Walbert during her final years in residence here on San Juan Island. The exhibition, which will be showing from October 15 through November 12, will be a retrospective and commemorative showing of Ann's work. She died on August 23 of this year.

The exhibition will begin with an opening reception and memorial, "A Special Tribute to Ann", on Saturday October 15. The reception will be open from 5:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. The exhibition and reception will be at the IMA Museum at 285 Spring Street in Friday Harbor. The public is invited.

Ann worked from her studio near the town of Friday Harbor for the final years of her life. While her paintings were sold to collectors throughout the United States, residents of the island acquired many of her finest works. Their respective owners are lending some of the most admired paintings from her period of residence here to the Museum for this exhibit. The showing will also include a few representative paintings completed by Ann during her years in Carmel, California. Because her work is so widely distributed among collections around the country, this exhibit is likely to be the final representative demonstration of her craft and style.



Ann was a versatile artist, equally adept in oil on canvas and watercolor. Her work included many brilliantly executed realistic landscapes and still life paintings, but she was most critically acclaimed for oil on canvas paintings in style that has become known as "atmospheric abstracts". These paintings are typically expressionistic interpretations of landscape subjects with abstract treatment of the material. Ann was noted for her imaginative and disciplined application of form and color and for mastery of brushwork. These atmospheric abstract paintings were in particular favor among many California collections. Her work received many professional awards and was featured in individual showings.

Some of her finest and most definitive paintings will be on display at this Island Museum of Art exhibition. They represent the culmination of sixty years of effort by a gifted artist who received extraordinary professional training at Milliken University and the Chicago Art Institute. Art was her life. The exhibition will show that her life was a happy success.