

Biographies for Artists Featured in *Maine Coastal Watercolors* (MBM 3)

Robert Courjon

Painter

Born 1911 Indo-China

Robert Courjon was born, 1911, in Indo-China. He studied painting, specifically watercolor, in Paris. Courjon moved to Maine, teaching at the Portland School of Art and living in Boothbay Harbor where he established his own gallery. He created voluminous amounts of paintings for a growing clientele, providing several galleries with his work. His delicately rendered watercolors of predominantly Maine scenes have been exhibited, collected and awarded by national and international institutions.

In the 1960's, Courjon donated a small group of watercolors to the University of Maine Museum of Art. Today, those works are exhibited as part of our Museums by Mail program.

Gene Klebe

Painter

American

Born 1907 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gene Klebe has lived in Bristol, Maine since 1945. He has presided over several artist organizations in the state, but has also completed several large-scale international projects for the United States Navy. In 1960, Klebe was stationed in Antarctica to document Operation Deep Freeze. He documented war-time events in Vietnam. In the Middle East, he painted scenes the 1974 re-opening of the Suez Canal. Klebe's work for the Navy has given him international acclaim, being exhibited nationally and internationally.

Klebe created a number of watercolor paintings and mixed media works documenting events of a different kind- life in Maine. For the 1967 Montreal Exposition, he painted a mural series, interpreting Maine's historical heritage. Klebe spent a lot of his time capturing the simple beauty of Maine's environment. The University of Maine Museum of Art has collected several examples his locally inspired works to include in our Museums by Mail exhibits.

Laurence Phillip Sisson

Painter

American

Born 1928 Boston, Massachusetts

Laurence Sisson became a landscape painter and illustrator. He studied at Yale Summer School, Worcester Museum School, where he taught years later, and was artist-in-residence at Publick House in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. In 1955 after moving to Kennebunkport, Maine Sisson became Director of the Portland School of Art. Sisson wanted to spread his philosophy of painting far and wide. He believed that "painting is never-ending experience and a way of life...any period along the way is but a moment of the artist's life."

Sisson's paintings have been exhibited and collected nationally and internationally. The University of Maine Museum of Art has a small collection of his work which is partly displayed throughout the University's campus and in our Museums by Mail program.