

Biographies for Artists Featured in *Mixed Media Still Lives* (MBM 34)

George Daniell

Photographer/Painter
American

Born 1911 Yonkers, New York
Died September 14, 2002 Bar Harbor, Maine

Daniell was a photographer best known for his black-and-white portraits of actors, artists and writers. Also a painter, Daniell studied drawing at Yale University and New York's American People's School and Art Students League graduating in 1947. He began taking photographs as a teenager in his native Yonkers, N.Y., and later became a freelance photographer in New York City and Europe. Daniell photographed celebrities where he found them in his travels about the United States and Europe: a young Sophia Loren in a Rome movie studio, Audrey Hepburn on the set of "War and Peace," Tennessee Williams in Key West, Fla., Georgia O'Keeffe on her Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, and W.H. Auden smoking a cigarette and lounging in a doorway on the Italian island of Ischia. He called Loren "the most beautiful woman I've ever seen," and O'Keeffe "very nice and very warm" but an artist treasuring her privacy. Daniell emphasizes that photography is art. He believes, like an artist, "a good photographer expresses [him/herself] effectively, knows how to crop well, can print nicely with gradations of light, and so on".

Daniell made the transition to painting to explore subjects that photography limited. He became, like many Maine artists, fascinated with the coast after spending a summer on Monhegan Island. In 1960, after this experience, he bought a farm on Oak Point in Trenton. He died in Bar Harbor in 2002 from complications from a stroke suffered in 1988.

His work appeared over the years in *Time* and *Life* magazines, among others, and is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the National Gallery in Washington. The University of Maine Museum of Art has a diverse collection of Daniell's work, ranging from his interesting photographic compositions to his sketches and paintings. A number of his works are featured in Museums by Mail exhibits.

Hans Alexander Mueller

Illustrator/Printmaker
American

Born 1888
Died 1962

Hans Alexander Mueller studied at the Academy for Graphic Arts in Leipzig. After World War I he taught woodcutting and engraving at the academy. In addition to his teaching duties he designed book jackets, made illustrations, prints and paintings for a variety of clients. His illustrated books include *Kidnapped*, and *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *Don Quixote* and *Three Novels* by Hamsun. He emigrated to the US before WWII.

Waldo Peirce

Painter
American

Born December 17, 1884 Bangor, Maine
Died March 8, 1970 Newburyport, Massachusetts

Waldo Peirce was born the son of a wealthy lumberman in Bangor, Maine. His parents — Mellen and Anna Hayford Peirce — owned vast tracts of timberlands north of Bangor, and lived on Bangor's west side alongside other wealthy and influential families: Peabody, Eaton, Woodcock, Webber, and others. The Peirces were known for their generosity to the town and hospital, and Mellen's brother Luther donated the Peirce memorial to woodsmen that stands beside the Bangor Public Library. (*Bangor Metro* Dec. 2005)

In 1909 Waldo graduated from Harvard University where he was known much more for his personality and football playing skills than for his scholastic ability. In 1910, he decided to go to Europe, but after boarding the ship in Boston, changed his mind, jumped overboard and swam ashore. However, shortly after that, he left for England and then to Paris where he enrolled at the Academie Julian. During this period he would marry and divorce his first of four wives. Peirce found great success in Paris and in 1915 exhibited his work alongside George Bellows, John Sloan, and Edward Hopper.

During World War I, he served as an ambulance driver and earned the Croix de Guerre for bravery. Peirce stayed in France for many years afterwards becoming friends with several well-known artists and writers such as Ernest Hemmingway, James Joyce, and Gertrude Stein. In 1927 Hemmingway and Peirce, now fast friends, traveled to Spain where Peirce sketched scenes from their trip. Later Peirce would visit Hemmingway in Key West as part of "The Mob." Peirce and Hemmingway saw each other once again in March 1959 in Tuscon, Arizona two years before Hemmingway's death. Per her husband's wish, Hemmingway's wife Mary saw to it that most of his personal writings would never be made public — she burned them. Although we know very little about their long friendship because of this we do have Peirce's sketches.

In the 1930s, Peirce and his third wife moved to a house on Cedar Street in Bangor where he became known around town as Whiskers-the-Artist. After World War II, and married to his fourth wife, Waldo Peirce finally settled into a painting style with which he was comfortable — the paintings of his growing family. Before his death in 1970, he completed hundreds of canvases of these subjects. He spent the last 25 years of his life in Searsport, Maine and Newburyport, Massachusetts. He is buried next to his mother in Mount Hope Cemetery in Bangor, Maine.