The Syracuse University Mural Program, 1958-71

April 11 - September 1, 1975
Lowe Art Gallery
Syracuse University
A Brief History of the Syracuse University Mural Program, 1958 - 1971

The Syracuse University Mural Program began in 1958 with the installation of Rico Lebrun's Crucifixion in the main reading room of the Andrew Carnegie Library. In 1960 Jean Charlot, famous for his work with the Mexican mural painters of the 1920's, decorated the east wall of Shaw Dining Hall with a monumental 45-foot fresco depicting a symbolic Mexican Village Fiesta. In the summer of the same year, Robert Marx, Assistant Professor of Art at Syracuse University, painted a large-scale fresco entitled Monuments of Good and Evil in Flint Hall.

During the 1962 summer session, a portion of the staircase at Lowe Art Gallery was decorated by Fred Conway, well-known midwestern mural painter and Professor of Art at Washington University in St. Louis. In 1963 one of Syracuse University's most famous alumni, Robert Goodenough, executed a painting of mural dimensions entitled Excursion, which is now in the basement of Sims Hall. Also in that year, Anton Refregier, the distinguished painter strongly influenced by the Mexicans, painted The Triumph of Logic and Reason Over Superstition and Evil, in the Synapse studio of Watson Dining Hall.

Kenneth Callahan, a west coast artist and teacher, painted The Cycle in 1964 on the staircase in Haven Hall. A year later, Marion Greenwood, painter and lithographer, executed Tribute to Woman in the Slocum Hall Lobby. In 1966 a social statement in abstract terms was made by the contemporary artist Adja Yunkers. This mural, entitled A Human Condition: They Have Made A Desert And They Have Called It Peace, is located in the basement of Sims Hall.

Ben Shahn, an artist of international reputation with an interest in religious and humanitarian themes, also executed a mural for Syracuse University. This mural, a mosaic done in 1967 entitled Sacco and Vanzetti, is on the exterior of Huntington Board Crouse Hall. Also during that year, John Rooney, a student of Adja Yunkers, painted The Loungers in Sadler Hall.

In 1967 Anthony Toney, a contemporary artist and art instructor, depicted Man and His Universe in Booms Hall. Four years later the same artist painted six large murals for Brokeyway Dining Hall entitled Aftermath. Toney made voluminous sketches for his Man and His Universe mural, and it is with these sketches that Lowe Art Gallery begins its series highlighting the Syracuse University Mural Program, 1958 - 1971.
There are many objectives for this series of exhibitions. First, to make students, faculty, staff, and the Syracuse community aware of the distinguished artists who were attracted to Syracuse University for the purpose not only of talking about art, but actually doing it. Second, to make all aware of the need for preservation and display of these murals. Three of the murals in the Program, (Lebrun's Crucifixion, Charlot's Village Fiesta, and Refrigeir's Triumph of Logic and Reason Over Superstition and Evil), are presently covered or disassembled, and are not available for public exhibition. Others are in need of restoration. And a final objective, and perhaps the most important, is to show how this Program was a vital educational asset in contributing to the overall development of the University and its community.

Former Dean Laurence Schmeckebier, under whose direction the campus Mural Program was carried out, commented on this remarkable and perhaps unique undertaking as follows: "It [The Mural Program] forms an integral part of the overall development program of the University, whereby the entire campus, with its modern buildings, spacious and well-landscaped grounds, monumental sculpture and mural decoration, becomes a vast and open museum."

Barry M. Winiker
ANTHONY TONEY

BORN: Gloversville, New York, 1913

STUDIED: Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, B.F.A.
        Columbia University, New York, New York, M.A., Ed. D.
        L'Academie de la Grande Chaumiere, Paris, France
        L'Ecole Superieure des Beaux Arts (fresco), Paris, France

TEACHING: Hofstra College, Hempstead, New York: Instructor
          Summer Arts Workshop at Festival House, Lenox, Massachusetts: Director

CURRENTLY: The New School For Social Research, New York, New York: Instructor
          Five Towns Music and Art Foundation, Cedarhurst, New York: Teacher
          Rockland Center for the Arts, Rockland County, New York: Teacher

HONORS: Hiram Gee Fellowship, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 1934
          Alumni Fellowship, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York, 1953


Awards and other prizes: Audubon Artists Grumbacher Award, 1954, Emily Lowe Award, 1955, First Prize, Mickiewicz Art Competition, 1956


ONE-MAN SHOWS

Wakefield Gallery (Betty Parsons), New York, New York, 1941
A.C.A. Gallery, New York, New York, 1949 - 1975
Love Art Gallery, Syracuse, New York, 1955
A.C.A. Gallery, Rome, Italy, 1960
Santa Barbara Museum, Santa Barbara, California, n.d.
Roswell Museum, Roswell, New Mexico, n.d.
Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, n.d.
Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, New York, n.d.
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, n.d.
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, n.d.
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, n.d.
Katonah Gallery, Katonah, New York, n.d.
St. Mary's College, Maryland, 1974
Bridge Gallery, White Plains, New York, 1975

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

American Federation of Art Travelling Exhibitions
Audubon Artists, New York, New York
Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.
National Academy, New York, New York
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
AMONG MAJOR COLLECTIONS

Anderson Fine Arts Center, Anderson, Indiana
Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Norton Gallery, West Palm Beach, Florida
St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
University of Wyoming Museum of Art, Laramie, Wyoming
Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
Wichita State University Museum of Art, Wichita, Kansas

PUBLICATIONS

Tune of the Calliope, in collaboration with other artists and a poet, 1958.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

All sketches were executed between 1966-67 for the mural Man and His Universe in Bowne Hall, Syracuse University. Both the sketches and the mural are from the Syracuse University Art Collection. The mural is the gift of an anonymous donor, and the sketches are a gift of the artist. Unless otherwise noted, all sketches are on paper. All dimensions are given in inches, height preceding width.

2. N.E. Hopkins. Watercolor and pencil, 29 x 22 7/8. SU 67.1178
4. Halmazy. Watercolor and pencil, 29 x 23. SU 67.1179
5. Isaac Newton. Watercolor, 16 7/8 x 14. SU 67.1190
6. Lawrence, Dr. McMillan, and Dr. Strive. Oil, 23 x 29. SU 67.1163
7. Untitled. Oil on masonite, 23 1/2 x 30. SU 67.323
8. Untitled. Oil, 23 x 29. SU 67.1164
10. Untitled. Oil, 29 x 22 7/8. SU 67.1166
11. Untitled. Oil on masonite, 23 7/8 x 36. SU 67.1167
12. Untitled. Oil on masonite, 23 7/8 x 36. SU 67.1168
13. Untitled. Watercolor, 7 3/8 x 17 1/2. SU 67.1181
15. Untitled. Pencil on tracing paper, 12 1/2 x 10 3/8. SU 67.1188
16. Untitled. Pencil, 16 x 17. SU 67.1194
17. Untitled. Watercolor, 1/4 x 16 3/4. SU 67.1199
18. Untitled. Watercolor on tracing paper, 13 1/2 x 16. SU 67.1196
19. Untitled. Pencil, 11 7/8 x 18. SU 67.1197
21. Untitled. Watercolor on gray paper, 29 x 18 1/2. SU 67.1199
22. Untitled. Oil, 25 x 18 1/2. SU 67.1200
23. Untitled. Watercolor, 17 3/4 x 22 1/2. SU 67.1201
24. Untitled. Pen on gray paper, 16 x 20. SU 67.1201
25. Untitled. Pencil, 17 1/2 x 22 3/4. SU 67.1203

Photographs of mural Man and His Universe, Bowne Hall, Syracuse University

Top row:
1. Detail, upper central portion: man and woman
2. Detail, upper central portion: man and hydrogen atom
3. Detail, right side: man

Middle row:
4. Detail, left side
5. Installation photograph, left side
6. Installation photograph, central portion
7. Installation photograph, right side

Bottom row:
8. Detail, right central portion: city structures, radio telescope, observatory, space vehicle, and figures
9. Detail, lower left side: table of the elements, lower human leg, x-rays, radio waves, infra-red rays, ultra violet rays, and figures
10. Detail, lower central portion: lower human legs, abstract figure of war and its victims, skull, figures, including Mosely, Pasteur, Paracelsus, Galileo, and Copernicus.
12. Detail, lower right portion: symbol of molecule, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Robert Millikan.

Photographs: Debbie Mann