

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
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Custis, Eleanor Parke	b. 28 Jul 1897 - d. 23 Jul 1983	85 yrs.	R11/174
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Equinox Antiques & Fine Art

Acclaimed 20th Century American woman artist featured in upcoming show

MANCHESTER, Vermont -- For the month of July 2005 only, an extensive, privately-held collection of watercolor gouaches by acclaimed 20th century American woman artist Eleanor Parke Custis will be exhibited at Equinox Antiques & Fine Art at 5036 Main Street in Manchester Center.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday, July 2 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the gallery when the 33-work collection will be unveiled to the public for the first time ever in Vermont.

Custis - a direct descendent of America's First Lady Martha Washington (and First American President George Washington) - was a pioneer in her chosen medium of watercolor gouache, and traveled extensively throughout New England and overseas.

Gallery owner Mark Reinfurt was attracted to the 20th Century American artist for her "joyful, wonderful, colorful composition and greatly acknowledged body of artistic work. Custis' works are growing in popularity within private institutions and public collections of merit for their current affordable price to the collecting market."

Reinfurt described Custis as a "consistent, prolific artist who dedicated her life and career to the American 20th century art scene and focused on her uniquely tasteful American feministic worldly style. She was a Renaissance woman with direction and the financial determination to explore her passions."

Custis' works are collected from Maine to California, and a number of esteemed museums and collections and private, well-respected artistic residences.

Eleanor Parke Custis (1897 - 1983) lived through America's Gilded Age and painted scenes as varied as the artist's travels; from her hometown of Washington, D.C., to the coastal towns of New England; from the prosperous fishing villages of Brittany to Venice and the mountain villages and lakes of northern Italy.

She was trained at the Corcoran School of Art beginning in 1915, and studied with Henry Snell during the summers of 1924 and 1925 in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. She was guided and inspired by Impressionist artist Edmund C. Tabrell, one of the Ten American Painters, who became the Corcoran's principal in 1918.

An active member of the Washington arts community, she was an officer of the Washington Watercolor Club and exhibited with the American Watercolor Society, the Vose Galleries in Boston, and in many presentations of the Grand Central Art Galleries in New York. Her last one-woman show there was in April 1945.

In 1933 she sold her paintings at the Grand Central Art Galleries to finance a trip to North Africa, adding to her portfolio of countries that included Holland, northern France, Switzerland, Italy, Egypt, Morocco and Guatemala.

She was also known as a book and magazine cover illustrator, and her woodblock printing-influenced aesthetics popularly employed flat areas of color delineated by dark contours. This technique causes the compositions to move toward the viewer and come alive.

Custis' style captured the scenes of the streets, wharves and dry docks of seacoast villages from Maine to Massachusetts. During her three trips to Europe between 1926 and 1929 she captured bustling street scenes and marketplace views.

A Mediterranean cruise in 1934 introduced her to the Near East, and the bustling, colorful streets and bazaars of Cairo, which added an exotic flair to her paintings.

Gradually Custis moved on to photography, eventually earning her the title of "First Lady of Pictorial Photography" by 1935. She was a woman of change, reinventing her dreams and artistic passions throughout her life.

<http://www.artnet.com/event>

Born in the District of Columbia, Eleanor Custis is directly descended from Martha Washington. In 1915, she enrolled in a 3-year program at the Corcoran School of Art with Edmund Tarbell, and she also studied with Henry Snell.

Widely travelled she did watch color sketches in Europe and Guatemala. She was also a successful childrens' book and magazine cover illustrator and belonged to several art associations including the American Watercolor Society, the Washington Watercolor Club the ...

Died Gloucester, Mass.

Custis, Elizabeth E. d. 21 Jan 1907 68 yrs. **R12/176**

Custis. Suddenly on Monday, January 21, 1907 at 11:30 p.m., Elizabeth E., beloved wife of the late Lemuel W. Custis. Funeral from the residence of her son, Dr. Marvin A. Custis, 626 E. Capitol street, Thursday, January 24 at 2 p.m.

The Evening Star, January 25, 1907, p. 12

In Congressional Cemetery

Interment of Remains of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Custis

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Custis, who died last Monday, occurred yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence of her son, Dr. Marvin A. Custis, 626 East Capitol street. The services were conducted by Rev. John Compton Ball, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Mrs. Custis, who was the widow of Lemuel W. Custis, was sixty-eight years of age and a native of the District of Columbia. Her death was a shock to her large circle of friends in the city. She was apparently in the best of health early Monday evening. During the latter part of the evening when she was informed of the death of a friend she said that she felt somewhat indisposed. After retiring one of the members of the family heard a faint call from Mrs. Custis and in response found that she was ill. Her son, Dr. Custis, was called immediately and gave his mother medical attention. It was seen at once that she was suffering from apoplexy and she gradually grew worse until the end. The interment was in Congressional cemetery.

Custis, Frances b. 16 Aug 1871 - d. 14 Jan 1951 **R12/174**

Custis. Frances Baden. On Sunday, January 14, 1951, Frances Baden Custis of 626 East Capitol st., beloved wife of Dr. Marvin A. Custis, mother of Eleanor Parke Custis, sister of Mrs. William M. Netherland. Services at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th street n.w o Wednesday, January 17 at 12 noon. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Custis, Dr. Marvin Ashdowne b. 11 Nov 1866 - d. 3 Jun 1956 89 yrs. **R12/173**

Custis, Dr. Marvin A. Suddenly on Sunday, June 3, 1956 at Gloucester, Mass., Dr. Marvin A. Custis of 626 East Capitol St. Husband of the late Frances Baden Custis. Father of Eleanor Parke Custis. Services at S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th street n.w. on Wednesday, June 6 at 2 p.m. (Parking facilities). Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, June 5, 1956, p. 16

Dr. Mavin Custis Dies; Physician and Banker

Dr. Marvin A. Custis, 89, retired Washington physician and chairman of the board of Perpetual Building Association, died Sunday at Gloucester, Mass., where he had gone for a vacation.

Dr. Custis practiced medicine here until 1925 when he joined the Perpetual Building Association as a director and trustee. In 1932 he became treasurer and in 1935 president of the company. He had been chairman of the board since 1947.

Also associated many years with the Fidelity Investment Co., he joined them in 1927 as vice-president. He was president from 1930-45.

Dr. Custis was a graduate of the Hahnemann Medical School in Philadelphia. He was a native Washingtonian.

His other activities included membership in the Washington Board of Trade, the Real Estate Board, the Washington Building Congress, the Society of Residential Appraisers, and the D.C. Medical Society.

He was also a Master Mason, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Masonic Veterans Association, the Potomac River Power Squadron of the U.S. Power Squadrons, a yachting organization; Almas Temple and a number of other fraternal and social groups.

He is survived by a daughter, Eleanor Parke Custis, with whom he lived at 626 E. Capitol st.

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Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday at the Hines Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. n.w. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.