

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Docent Training: Monday, October 19, 2009
We Are Not Alone
Notes

William Merritt Chase (1849 – 1916)

The Inner Studio, Tenth Street, 1882 (51 West 10th Street)

- Born in Indiana
- Moved to Indianapolis when he was 12
- Studied art locally and then moved to New York to study at the National Academy of Design
- Lived in St. Louis briefly
- Studied in Munich 1872 – 1878 – Dutch Old Masters – bravura brush work
- Returned to Europe in 1881, spending time in Paris with Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent
- Also traveled to Spain – Velasquez
- In his early career he focused on portraits and still lifes
- In the 1880s and 1890s he was influenced by Impressionism and began to paint en plein air
- After his return to New York in 1878, he rented a studio in the Tenth Street Studio Building
- He took over Albert Bierstadt's studio
- Building, designed by Richard Morris Hunt, was completed in 1858 and originally housed the studios of many of the Hudson River School painters – Frederic Church, Martin Johnson Heade, Albert Bierstadt and later Winslow Homer
- Chase taught at various schools – Art Students League in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, and importantly at his own school at his home on Shinnecock, Long Island – house designed by Stanford White
- His students include: Charles Demuth, Marsden Hartley, Edward Hopper, Alfred Maurer, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Charles Sheeler
- Studio paintings: 1880 – 1885

Alson Skinner Clark (1876 – 1949)

The Violinist, ca. 1901

- Born in Chicago
- Father was a stock broker (eventually bought a paint company)
- Studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago when he was eleven
- In 1889 his family went on a two-year trip around the world
- Returned to the Art Institute in the mid-1890s but left in 1896 when he moved to New York (with his mother and sister) to study with William Merritt Chase at the Art Students League
- Moved to Paris in 1898 where he studied with James Abbott McNeill Whistler; studied there until 1901
- First submission to the Paris Salon of 1899 was rejected; but his second submission in 1901 – The Violinist was accepted;
- Moved back and forth between Paris and New York
- William Macbeth in New York was his dealer
- Moved to Pasadena in 1919 and became head of the Stickney School of Fine Arts in 1921

Alfred Maurer (1868 – 1932)

Woman in Interior, 1901

- Born in New York
- Studied with William Merritt Chase
- Lived in Paris from 1897 to 1914 where he saw and was influenced by the work of Whistler – particularly evident in his early work
- He was also influenced in his later work by the Fauves and Cubists
- Between 1897 and 1904 he painted images of elegantly attired female figures in spare interiors

Julian Alden Weir (1852 – 1919)

The Orchid, 1891 (1899 – 1909)

- Studied with his father who was also an artist – taught drawing at West Point
- After studying at the National Academy of Design, he moved to Paris in 1873 where he studied with Jean-Leon Gerome at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and with the French plein-air painter Jules Bastien Lepage
- He returned to New York in 1877 and taught at the Art Students League
- After 1883 he had a studio at the Tenth Street Studio Building
- Became a member of The Ten – a group of American Impressionist-influenced painters – along with Childe Hassam and John Twachtman (William Merritt Chase replaced Twachtman in 1902)
- The Orchid is most likely a portrait of his eldest daughter Caro
- Anna, Weir's wife, died in 1902, after giving birth to their third child
- The Orchid is painted over what is believed to be an early portrait of Anna reading

Herter Brothers

Fall-front Secretary Cabinet, ca. 1878

Ebony, ebonized maple, mahogany, figures birch, gilding, cloisonné enamel

- Gustave Herter (1830 – 1898); adopted, German, moved to New York about 1848
- Christian Herter (1839 – 1883) joined firm in 1864 and took over sole proprietorship in 1870
- By 1870, Herter Brothers had become the preeminent furniture and design firm in the country
- Influence of British Design Reform Movement, particularly the work of E.W. Godwin (See tea table for Ellen Terry in Huntington galleries)
- Secretary used to be owned by Robert L. Elder, owner of the Greek Revival mansion in Newport, Rhode Island called "Elmhurst"
- Elder's grandfather Abraham Peter Turner Elder may have acquired the secretary with the house when he purchased it in 1900
- Cloisonné panel: chrysanthemum, peony, hydrangea and jasmine

Greene & Greene

Charles Sumner Greene (1868 – 1957)

Henry Mather Greene (1870 – 1854)

- Born in Cincinnati
- Family moved to St. Louis where brothers studied at the Woodward Training School, a progressive extension of Washington University
- In the fall of 1888 both brothers moved to Boston to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; after completing their studies, they apprenticed in architectural firms in Boston
- They left Boston for California in 1893 and opened their architectural practice in Pasadena in 1894

- About 1903-1904, with clients like Jennie Reeve and Adelaide Tichenor, they began to develop comprehensive interior and exterior design schemes for their houses they designed
- Starting about 1906 with the Robinson House interior they began to work with the Hall Brothers – John and Peter Hall -- expert cabinetmakers grounded in the European craftsman traditions; between 1906 and 1913 the Halls produced over 400 pieces of furniture for Greene & Greene interiors
- The stained-glass hanging lamps for the Reeve house were the first major lighting fixtures designed by the Greenes
- In 1906, with the Robinson house chandelier, they began to use copper foil to hold each glass panel in place giving greater precision and refinement to the imagery
- They worked with the Sturdy-Lange studio in producing Adelaide Tichenor windows
- Charles moved to Carmel in 1916 to pursue his interest in art