Gold, Albert

Leading Rhode Island Artist Albert Gold Dead at 66

Albert Gold, one of Rhode Island's best-known artists during the 1930s and 1940s, died Friday while on a business trip to Detroit. He was 66 years old and lived on the South County Trail in East Greenwich with his wife, the former Mary Ellis.

Mr. Gold's paintings are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University.

He was a leading exhibitor in the 1942 show, "Scott's Rebellion," an exhibition which broke the hold of old-fashioned art in this area. The show was inspired by the art criticism of Winfield Townley Scott, the late Journal-Bulletin literary editor.

Mr. Gold was never able to earn a living from his paintings, no matter how much acclaim they received. For better than the last 20 years, he ran a stamp collection business from his home, staying out of the art world.

Even in his heyday, he would paint houses to get the money to paint paintings.

The house painting, he said once, led him to prefer "big, flat surfaces" for his canvases.

Mr. Gold, a native of Russia, attended the Rhode Island School of Design. In the late 1930s, he was one of a number of artists who had the Providence art scene flourishing.

He exhibited about every year at the then-annual exhibition of American Art in New York City.

In 1938, he began learning aircraft mechanics, and he worked as a repairman at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station throughout the war. Parts of aircraft engines were the subject matter of some of his paintings, and machinery in general intrigued him, resulting in a 1939 canvas, "The Enormous Egg Beater," which became controversial when exhibited in New York.

He disdained labels, and once said: "I don't classify myself as a member of any school. I paint the way I want and if anyone wants to pin labels on me, they are free to do so."

Mr. Gold worked on the Federal Air Project of the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal, and painted the mural which hung in the reading room of the old University of Rhode Island library.

His brother was Dr. Sidney Goldstein, superintendent of the Rhode Island Medical Center, who died in February of 1963.

Mr. Gold s funeral will be private.

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