



Curator, Mike McCourt, displays painting donated by Elizabeth Lochrie

Butte artist donates paintings of Indians to Historical Society

BUTTE (AP) — More than 70 paintings by Elizabeth Lochrie, a Butte artist renowned for her portraits of Indians, have been donated to the Montana Historical Society.

Mrs. Lochrie, 89, now lives in a retirement home in California. The donation was by Mrs. Lochrie and her family.

Mike McCourt, curator of the Historical Society's museum in Helena, said the collection will be stored until money is available to have the works framed and put on temporary display, either by themselves or as part of a larger Indian exhibit.

He said the value of the collection has not been established. It is to be appraised after inventory and cataloging are completed this summer or fall.

Included in the donation are numerous Indian artifacts, such as moccasins, tom-toms, headdresses and blankets, most probably acquired by Mrs. Lochrie during summers of living with Indian tribes

around the state.

"It's a tremendous donation to receive that many works from one well-known artist," McCourt said.

He said the works are important both historically and artistically. "The collection not only gives a glimpse of the Indians culture of the time she painted, but also is a historic collection of the individual people of that time," McCourt said.

Mrs. Lochrie's husband Arthur, whom she married in 1913, was president of the Miners Bank in Butte for 24 years. He died in 1975. The couple had three children.

Although she began painting as a child, it wasn't until after a visit to Glacier National Park in the summer of 1931 that she began specializing in Indian portraits.

"I got acquainted with the Indians. I found them so paintable that I've done them ever since. I've done hundreds, maybe thousands," she told an interviewer several years ago.

"Every summer after that I either took the children or left them home with the maid, and I went to Glacier or the Flathead, or somewhere to paint Crow, Nez Perce, Flathead, Blackfeet, Assiniboine. I spent all summer chasing Indians."

She began teaching and selling her works in 1933.

Her works have been exhibited throughout the United States, including a permanent display at the Arthur Newton Gallery in New York.

Not long before she moved to California in 1975, her work was shown at the Western Art Rendezvous in Washington, D.C., and at the International Art Rendezvous in France.

According to a daughter, Mrs. Lochrie has not painted since she left Butte.

"(She) has said the sky is not the same blue as Montana's. Nothing in California is known to her as in Montana."



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The exhibition of Lochrie Indian portraits and landscapes will begin Saturday with public hours, 11 to 5, and continue through September.

It is fitting that the work of an artist of Mrs. Lochrie's stature should be chosen for the initial show in the Butte gallery.

Mrs. Lochrie was the first woman to be honored with a show in New York City at the Arthur Newton Galleries. To that date, the only Montanan so honored had been Charles Marion Russell.

"This Butte gallery is an addition to a growing phenomenon of community art centers in Montana," said Ray Campeau, temporary director of the gallery and co-

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purpose and later discarded.

Several cases the art gallery concept of the building from being razed, thus art patrons have been served.

Campeau mentioned the Yellowstone in Butte which had been an old jail; the Copeland in Anaconda, a former Salvation Army church, the Miles City Gallery once the old water works; the Hockaday in Kalispell, which had been the city library; Great Falls restoration of the Paris-Gibson School for another art center and now the Charles Clark mansion in Butte becoming an art gallery and museum.

"Montana's got it," crowed the genial Ray Campeau who is fast earning the reputation as being Montana's most active artist and patron of artistry.

He called the September show, "an Elizabeth Lochrie retrospect."

Among the popular paintings that will be in the collection are "Chief Lazy Boy," "Chief Bird Rattle," "The Madonna," "Chief Plenty Coups," "Outback — The 320 Ranch" the

She soon became the seven Indian portraits as well as membership in Montana and Idaho.

Many old friends of the pencil" she would later paint.

In her studio in Granite, Mrs. Lochrie while she painted.

Mrs. Lochrie's Indian and his Blackfeet home in the midst, in a friendship, in the Blackfeet language, ki, meaning love.

Now 87, Mrs. Lochrie's singular life and friends.

In addition to her work from life, she has never missed an opportunity on behalf



"Madonna"

THE BUTTE, SILVER BOW ART CHATEAU

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PREMIER EXHIBITION

*

ELIZABETH LOCHRIE
RETROSPECT

September 3 through October 1