

Watercolors by Norman D. Daly

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Art

Watercolors

By Norman D. Daly

Selected watercolor interpreting scenes in Ithaca, Paris, and Southwestern United States—some with a very fluid, others with a more detailed technique—form an interesting new exhibit in the Music Room, Willard Straight Hall. Norman D. Daly, the artist, is assistant professor of fine arts at Cornell.

"Gorges 1, 2, 3," painted in this vicinity (all of Cascadilla Creek), reflect vividly the contrast of light and shade as sunlight penetrates the green foliage of trees and glances onto the water. Varied intensities of black and gray, used with the green, accentuate the contrasts of light and shadow in these scenes.

A group of Colorado landscapes, painted while Professor Daly was teaching at the University of Colorado, show the same freedom of style. The fresh colors of "South Park," the sweep of sky in "North of Boulder"—with birds silhouetted above the sandy ground so typical of the region—are especially effective. "Chalk Cliffs," painted from the veranda of a ranch overlooking these curious peaks, is an at-a-distance picture which impresses the observer first by the simplicity of its composition and then, on further examination, by the complexity of its few details.

Two European pictures, "Nice and Harbor," "Nice," are done in "gouache," which is a paint heavier than water color but lighter than oils. Since gouache offers possibilities for both transparent and opaque effects, Professor Daly says he has shown some of his classes at Cornell how to make it. It is now relatively scarce.

"From the Madeleine Steps, Paris," is the most appealing of his European scenes, has less detail, and is more mature than the two of Nice. Threatening clouds, shimmering effects produced by the rain, reflections in the street, are all convincing. Against so much gray, the red umbrella makes a pleasing contrast, and the greenish tinge applied to the antique columns adds just the right touch. This picture was painted from memory while the artist was studying in Paris.

"Salida Ball Park" expresses the morbidity of the Southwest—its low mountains and flat expanses. A symbol of civilization, the ball park has hardly made an impression on the surrounding country. "Saint John's, Colorado," in the same group, was painted from notes because, Professor Daly explains, it was so hot on the mountain top when he tried to paint with wet wash that the water dried as soon as it touched the paper.

The artist has exhibited at International Watercolor Exhibition, 58th American Annual, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Carnegie Museum, and won first honorable mention in the Denver Annual in 1943.

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