



## **Harry I. Day, Jr., SMA '30 (1912 - 2001)**

Harry Ivan Day, Jr., was born November 17, 1912, in Haverhill, MA, a descendent of Joseph Lewis, one of the first settlers of Boothbay, ME. Harry entered Staunton Military Academy (SMA) in September 1927 at the age of 15 as a sophomore and was honorably discharged June 5, 1929. After SMA he attended Chapel Hill - Chauncy Hall School a private boarding school in Waltham, MA.

After graduating from Chapel Hill - Chauncy Hall, Harry, left a potential career in engineering to attend the Massachusetts School of Art. Then, having learned photography from his father, an engineer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he decided to return to photography. He moved to New York City during the Depression and worked as an elevator man in a chic apartment to earn money to attend the New York Institute of Photography. Upon graduation, Day's first job as a photographer was taking portraits for Whelan Studios.

Harry became a renowned photographer and owned the Harry Day Gallery on Union Street in Boothbay Harbor for 45 years. His addresses included NYC; Forest Hills, NY; Westport, CT; Essex, CT; and Jackson, NH, where he had an art gallery 1969-1991. He was the sole photographer for Van Cleef and Arpels Jewelry for eight years. He also photographed such celebrities as Lilli Pons, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Babe Paley, Marlene Dietrich, and Solomon Guggenheim. He was the first American photographer to exhibit at England's Royal Photographic Society, and became a Fellow and received the F.R.P.S. designation. The Christian Science Monitor commissioned Day to do a series of pictures featuring Children of the World as covers for its magazine section. In the 1950s, Day was contracted by David Dean Laboratories to convert LIFE magazine's photographs of the world's 50 greatest masterpieces to life-sized transparencies, as well as the entire Sistine Chapel ceiling, Michaelangelo's masterpiece, done in one-quarter scale. This world display, called *Illumination from Life*, was featured at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Eastman Kodak Company invited him to lecture on a unique photographic process he had invented. Harry was considered one of the top 10 exhibitors of photography in the world.

In addition to his acclaim as a photographer, Harry was most recently recognized as a contemporary painter. Mr. Day had started drawing at the age of 6 when a draftsman friend gave him paper, pencil and pastels and told him to start drawing. Soon after, he began applying his love of color and space to landscapes and seascapes in all types of media. He enjoyed hiking and skiing adventures in the White Mountains, and many of his paintings came from these trips. He studied painting at the National Academy of Design and at the Art Student League, both in New York City.

He had one-man shows at Deeley Gallery, Manchester, VT; Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, ME; Fairleigh Dickinson College, NJ; National Academy of Design, NYC; Grand Central Gallery, NYC; Maine Art Historical Society; Wendy Glass Gallery, NYC; Silvermine Guild, CT; Little Gallery, Philadelphia; and Bloomfield College, NJ. Some of Day's murals, called Colorama, could be seen in New

York's Grand Central Station, Saks Fifth Avenue among other places. His work has also been displayed at Boston Museum and Dallas Museum.

Harry retired to Bradenton , FL, where he had been a winter resident. His wife, Jannis, whom he had married in 1940, died in 1993. Harry died February 18, 2001, in Bradenton.

*oneofakindantiques.com/catalog/4058\_modern\_art\_abstract\_landscape\_painting\_harry\_day\_essex\_ct\_1.htm;*  
*boothbayregister.maine.com* and *mountwashingtonvalley.com*  
Edits by Kelly McGavock, SMA '59