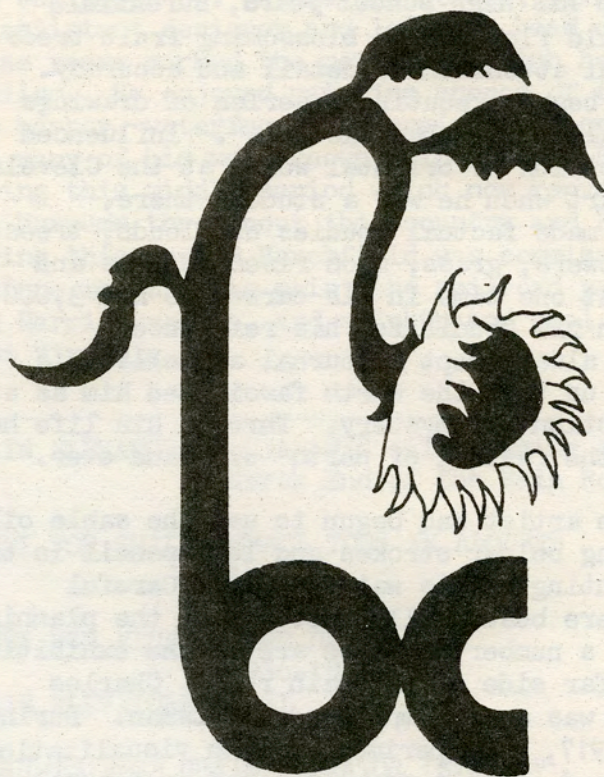


# Annuals and Perennials

Latest acquisitions and others from the permanent collection



BURCHFIELD CENTER

MAY 10 to SEPTEMBER 20, 1981

## EARLY PERIOD 1915-1920

Charles Burchfield's watercolors from the years 1916-1920 are generally referred to as the early romantic period. In 1915, the year he began to paint independently, Burchfield was twenty two and a junior at the Cleveland School of Art. There are two 1915 works and groupings of 1916 paintings, the first, just inside the entrance to the right and on the west side of the Main Gallery. These are pencil sketches with water color.

As early as his high school years, Burchfield recorded wild flowers and blossoming fruit trees with careful attention to detail and accuracy. In 1915 he began executing a series of drawings which he called "All Day Sketches". Influenced by an exhibition of oriental works at the Cleveland School of Art when he was a student there, Burchfield made factual studies of clouds, trees, fields, flowers, grass, moon rises, storms and sunsets. At one time in his career he had 3,000 drawings in his studio for his reference. Burchfield always kept a journal as well. His notes tell us that the North fascinated him as a place of action and mystery. Through his life he painted " the feeling of north" over and over.

By 1917 the artist had begun to use the sable oil brush, using bolder strokes and less pencil in the actual painting of his watercolors. Careful sketches were beautifully executed in the planning of a work, a number of these are in the exhibition, along the far side of the main room. Charles Burchfield was an accomplished draftsman. During the year 1917, he experimented with visualization of sounds and graphic symbols based on natural forms including recalled images from his childhood.

Begin with WINDSWEPT SKY 1916 located to your right as you enter the Main Gallery.

Next on the west side of this same room you will see another group of these early works.

UNTITLED (Clump of Purple Trees) 1915  
HIGH NOON 1915  
REFLECTIONS 1916

MIDDLE PERIOD 1920-1943

The middle years are indicated approximately as 1920-1943. In 1922 Burchfield married and moved to Western New York. He lived in Buffalo at first and then moved to Gardenville where he spent the remainder of his years.

In the 1920's he worked for the M.H. Birge and Son Wallpaper Co. on Niagara Street, Buffalo as assistant designer and later as head designer. These years marked the period in which he emphasized realism. He enjoyed painting scenes of the city, the harbor, waterfront and grain elevators. Burchfield did many of his well known paintings of Buffalo during this middle period which now represent his work in Museums throughout this country and Europe. Also during this period Burchfield was commissioned by Fortune magazine to paint the railroad yards in Altoona and Harrisburg, Pa. and sulphur and coal mines in West Virginia.

GRAIN ELEVATORS 1931-1938 oil, hanging at the  
North End of the Main Room.

STUDY FOR SMALL "SMALL TOWN IN AUGUST"  
1926

STUDY FOR "END OF THE DAY"  
1936-1938

GRAIN ELEVATORS 1931

2 STUDIES FOR "GRAIN ELEVATOR (EVANS)"  
1931 and 1932

These are located with a grouping of similar works on the west side of the room in the lowered ceiling area.

LATE YEARS 1943-1967

The years 1934-1943 began the transition to the third period in the artist's career. Ideas of fantasy and childhood memories again occupied his creative thoughts. In the maturity of these later years, with full mastery of the medium of watercolor, these works are splendid portrayals of the world and nature and personify the nature of the artist himself.

These periods and the various facets of his expressions, paintings, drawings, wallpapers and doodles are all represented in the present exhibition. You will note one work done in oil, GRAIN ELEVATORS, one of about twenty oils done in Burchfield's lifetime; watercolor was his favorite medium.

APPLE BOUGH AND QUEEN ANNE'S LACE 1963-65

AFTERNOON WIND 1964

JULY SUNLIGHT POURING DOWN 1952

WINDBLOWN ASTERS 1951

You will find these together on the south wall near the reception desk.

Enjoy your visit -- and come again soon!