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Gravesite
Grove Hill Cemetery
Rockville

Charles Ethan Porter

Wikipedia

Cemetery appr
875-3158

Charles Ethan Porter

Charles Ethan Porter (c. 1847 - March 6 1923), was an African American still life painter.

Porter was born in or about 1847 in Hartford, Connecticut. His family moved to the nearby village of Rockville (part of Vernon, Connecticut) by the early 1850s. In the 1870s, his father built a house there. He graduated fro the local high school in 1865.

In 1869, after two years of art study at Wesleyan Academy (now known as the Wilbraham & Monson Academy) in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, Porter went on to study at New York's National Academy of Design and was one o the first African Americans to exhibit at the Academy.

In 1878, he opened a studio in Hartford, Connecticut. When he traveled to Paris several years later, he took wi him a letter of recommendation from Mark Twain.

He was in France from late 1881 to early 1884, probably studying at times at the Academie Julian. He spent several months in the French countryside as well, including the village of Fleury, near Barbizon. Porter returne to the U.S. and worked in Hartford and New York City.

He left Hartford for Rockville in 1889, where he briefly had a studio in the Fitch Block and afterward at the remains of a tower on Fox Hill, which a family member owned.

At times from 1890 to 1896 he also had a studio in New York City. Later, his fortunes declined, possibly becaus of health issues and certainly because of mounting racism nationwide, and he sold his paintings door-to-door in Rockville, Connecticut, where he died in 1923 in virtual obscurity, around the age of 75.

In recent years, Porter has been rediscovered and is now remembered as the creator of minor masterpieces of American still life painting. He is most famous for fruit and floral still life.

Important dates

Grove Hill Cemetery
Sec 1
Lot 28
White marble stone
- From ofc.
3rd rite

c.1847 birth in Hartford, Connecticut

1869 begins studies at National Academy of Design

1871 exhibits National Academy of Design

1873 and 1875 exhibits American Society of Painters in Water Color

1876 exhibits National Academy of Design

1878 opens studio in Hartford, Connecticut

1879 Frederic Church commends Porter's paintings and purchases

1881 enrolls Ecole des Arts Decoratifs in Paris

1881 to 1884 studies in Paris and paints in countryside

1885 opens studio in New York City

1887 returns to Hartford, opens studio

1889 returns to Rockville

1890 to 1896 has studios at times in New York City

1910 becomes charter member of Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts

1923 death in Rockville

External links

- Hartford Black History Project for Charles Ethan Porter
- Driskell Collection's Untitled (Still Life: Mums in a Bowl)

References

- Application to the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs
- Krieble, Helen et al, Charles Ethan Porter, 1847?-1923 (exhibition catalog, Connecticut Gallery, 1987)

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