

ALDRO T. HIBBARD (1886-1972)

*A Realist by Nature*

VOSE GALLERIES



*Laden Hemlock*, Oil on canvas, 28 x 36 inches, Signed lower right: *A. T. Hibbard*

Cover: (detail of page 9) *West River Valley, Vermont*, Oil on canvas, 40 x 49 inches  
Back Cover: *Farm near Glebe Mountain, Vermont*, Oil on canvas, 28 x 40 inches  
Right: Aldro Hibbard at his easel. Photo courtesy of Elaine Hibbard Clark.

# ALDRO T. HIBBARD (1886-1972)

## *A Realist by Nature*



October 1st - November 12th, 2008

V O S E   G A L L E R I E S   O F   B O S T O N



## ALDRO HIBBARD: A SENSE OF THE MAN

*Marcia L. Vose with Elaine Hibbard Clark*

When Elaine Hibbard Clark was a little girl, she asked her father if he actually saw the purple mountains and colored snow in his winter landscapes. “The colors are there,” answered her father “but you have to train your eyes to see them.”

The daughter of artist Aldro Hibbard and a life-long resident of Rockport, Elaine describes her father as a kindly man with a wonderful sense of humor who was constantly active. He epitomized the idea of Yankee philosophy: honest, straightforward, principled, and independent. He was a bit provincial in accepting outsiders, particularly the hordes of New York artists who came during the summers to capture the charm of Rockport and Gloucester.

In addition to his artwork, Hibbard was devoted to the local residents of Rockport, many of whom toiled in the fishing and quarry industries. The artist started the town’s baseball team, and both played, and later managed, for over forty years. “He drew the local people out through baseball,” notes his daughter, “and took on the role of mentor to the players.” He demanded loyalty to the team and strict discipline and set the same standards for himself. When a game conflicted with his son’s graduation from Dartmouth, he stayed in Rockport with the team. “He was a man of his word and his priorities were art, baseball, and family, in that order!” quips Elaine.

Hibbard displayed a strong sense of justice and often helped the Rockport townspeople through their struggles. On one

LEFT: Aldro Hibbard at his easel. Photo courtesy of Elaine Hibbard Clark.

RIGHT: *Seated Model*, Charcoal on paper, 20 x 12 inches

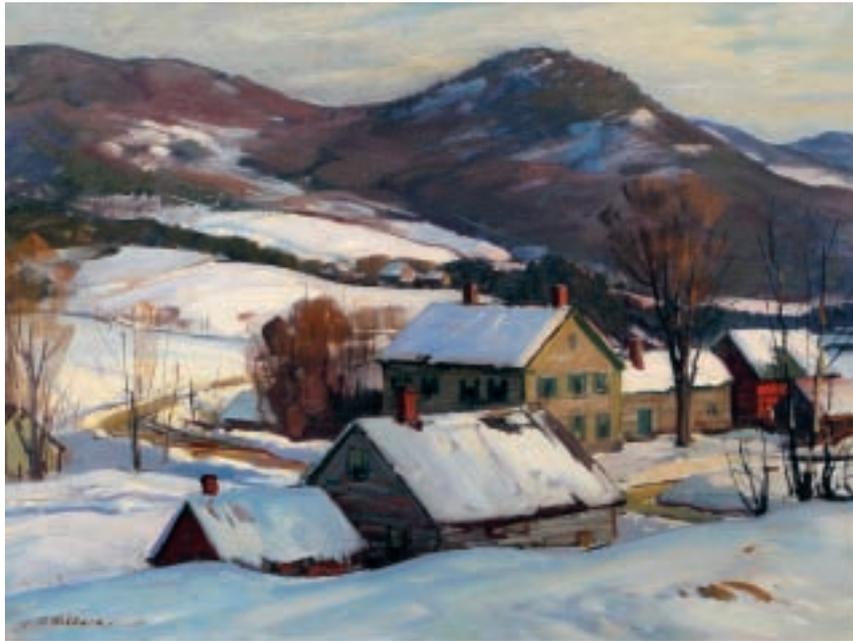


*Sawmill in Newfane, Vermont*, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 inches, Signed lower right: A. T. Hibbard

occasion, a local lobsterman was facing financial difficulties after a wealthy businessman, who was fond of throwing lobster dinner parties, was slow in paying his \$6,000 tab. Hibbard hired a Boston lawyer who showed up at one of the dinner parties and demanded payment, prompting the embarrassed businessman to settle immediately.

When asked why her father chose landscape painting over portraiture, Elaine explained that he didn't want to spend life

indoors, nor cater to the wishes of clients who commissioned portraits. Instead, Hibbard headed to the streams and woods of the Vermont countryside in winter and built his reputation as New England's finest snow painter. He would paint on the spot, often traveling miles into the woods to paint loggers, maple sap gatherers, and snow-laden spruces. "My father wasn't a religious man," states Elaine, "but he found in the woods a sense of the divine in the beauty of nature. It was a place for solace and contemplation."



ABOVE: *Sunlit Hills*, Oil on canvas, 24 1/4 x 32 1/4 inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*

BELOW: *Receding Storm, Rawsonville, Vermont*, Oil on board, 15 x 18 inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*



*West River Valley, Vermont, Oil on canvas, 40 x 49 inches*

*Aldro Hibbard: A Sense of the Man (continued)*

“My father was a wonderful man,” Elaine declares. “He loved people and parties, loved to tell his Rockport friends stories of Vermont in their classic Yankee accent, and even did professional magic tricks to entertain. He was caring and sensitive and so kind that he hated conducting critiques of his students’ work. He always found something to praise in their paintings. At home I never saw him angry, and although he had within him a New England reserve, we always knew he loved his family.”

Vose Galleries has enjoyed a three-generation relationship with the Hibbard family, starting with the artist and continuing with Hibbard’s daughter and granddaughter. We think the artist would be pleased to know: 1. his paintings have achieved wide public and critical acclaim; 2. the Red Sox bested the Yankees for the division championship in 2007 and went on to win the World Series; and 3. his family continues to thrive from generation to generation! ❖



*Snow Mantle – Pines*, Oil on canvas, 24 x 32 inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*

*“[Hibbard] has something that the other American painters of these snow scenes, able as they are, do not possess – a superior subtilty (sic), a sense of values, a faculty of lifting the work above the plane of stark realism, and giving it the look of a higher kind of truth than literalism can compass....in the final refinements which give distinction and beauty to the landscape of midwinter we believe Mr. Hibbard has no peer.”*

*Boston Evening Transcript*, April 18, 1922



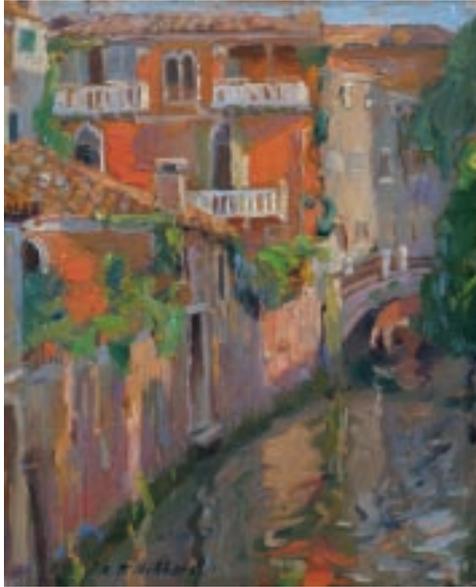
*Motif #1, Rockport, Oil on canvas on board, 24 x 28 inches, Signed lower left: A. T. Hibbard*



*Boats at Rockport*, Oil on canvas on board, 15 x 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*



*Provincetown Dock*, Oil on canvas on board, 14 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches, Signed lower right: *A. T. Hibbard*



## The Life of Aldro Hibbard: A Chronology

- 1886** Aldroandus Thompson Hibbard is born in Sippewisset, on Cape Cod.
- 1891** Moves to Roxbury, Massachusetts, then Dorchester, spending summers on the Cape.
- 1906** Enters Massachusetts Normal Art School (MNAS).
- 1909** Finishes MNAS and enrolls in the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
- 1913** Receives the Paige Traveling Scholarship and departs for England, France and Spain.
- 1915** Rents a studio at the Fenway Studios in Boston. Exhibits with the National Academy of Design (NAD). Travels to Vermont.
- 1916** One-man show at the Boston Art Club.
- 1919** One-man show at the Belmont Public Library. Joins the Guild of Boston Artists and has first of many one-man shows. Visits Rockport, but spends the summer in Provincetown. Joins the Beachcomber's Club.
- 1920** One-man show at St. Botolph Club, Boston. Opens Rockport Summer School of Drawing and Painting. Begins teaching drawing at Boston University (BU). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, purchases *Winter Days*.
- 1921** Lives in Belmont and Rockport. Plays for and manages the Rockport Town Baseball Team until 1946.
- 1922** Gives up teaching at BU to paint in Vermont. Becomes founding member of Rockport Art Association; is secretary until 1926, president from 1926 until 1942.



ABOVE: *Venetian Canal*, Oil on canvas board, 11 x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*

BELOW: *April Afternoon*, Oil on board, 15 x 18 inches, Signed lower right: *A. T. Hibbard*

- 1922 Receives the Altman Prize from the NAD for *Late February*
- 1923 Meets Winifred Jackman (his future wife) from El Paso. Metropolitan Museum of Art purchases *Vermont Hills*.
- 1924 Elected Associate Member of the NAD. Visits Winifred in El Paso and travels to New Mexico and Canada to paint.
- 1925 Marries Winifred; honeymoon in Carmel, California, and the Canadian Rockies.
- 1928 Receives Altman Prize from the NAD for *Snow Mantle*.
- 1929 Moves to a new home in Rockport and builds studio and gallery, Ledgendsea.
- 1930 Daughter Elaine is born.
- 1934 Elected full member of the NAD.
- 1936 Son Malcolm is born.
- 1939 Featured in a full-page article in Boston Herald.
- 1943 Retires as president of Rockport Art Association.
- 1949 Closes summer school in Rockport.
- 1957 Is celebrated with A.T. Hibbard Day at Evans Field, Rockport.
- 1963 Retrospective exhibition at the Concord Art Association.
- 1965 Retrospective exhibition at the Guild of Boston Artists.
- 1968 John Colley writes *A.T. Hibbard, N.A., Artist in Two Worlds*.
- 1972 November 3, dies in Rockport, age 86.



ABOVE: *Summer Landscape with Farm in the Distance*, Oil on canvas board, 11 x 14 inches, Signed lower right: *A. T. Hibbard*

BELOW: *Nova Scotia Scene*, Oil on canvas, 12 x 11 inches, Signed lower right: *A. T. Hibbard*



*Vermont Stream*, Oil on canvas, 28 x 36 inches, Signed lower left: *A. T. Hibbard*





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