

Henry Ahl

Born in East Hartford, Connecticut, Henry Ahl was a portraitist, muralist, and landscape painter whose work reflected his exposure to the Tonalist style of the Barbizon painters.

From 1911, he did canvases and murals with religious themes and decorated numerous churches in Boston and Providence. However, his promising career as a muralist ended in 1915 when he fell from a scaffold, and from that time he focused on landscape painting.

He showed early talent for drawing and by age 17 was a skilled oil painter. His reputation was assured by the time he was age 30. He studied at the Royal Academy of Munich with Alexander Wagner and Franz Von Stuck and in Paris with Jean Leon Gerome at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and with Peter Paul Muller. In Europe, he exhibited with the Munich Royal Academy where he won a prize.

Returning to the United States, he settled in Springfield, Massachusetts and married artist Eleanor Isabella Curtis. After another trip to Europe, he worked in Washington D.C. and earned a prestigious reputation as a portrait painter of prominent persons.

Following a return to Europe, he opened a studio in New York City and painted more portraits and finally settled in Boston where in Newbury he bought a twenty-room mansion built in 1637. This place became his permanent home and studio.

His work can be found in private and public collections including the Whistler Memorial Home in Lowell, Massachusetts, and in church murals in Boston and Providence.

He was a member of the American Artists Professional League, the Copley Society, the Salmagundi Club, and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts.

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