

HISTORY MAKER

WILLIAM STUART ARCHIBALD JR

Born: Oct. 25, 1910, New York City

Died: Feb. 12, 1987, Winston-Salem

Known for: An accomplished watercolor and sketch artist specializing in historic architecture whose work was used heavily in fundraising for the Old Salem restoration and reconstruction efforts.

Stuart Archibald served in the Army Air Force intelligence division in India during World War II. During his down time, he painted watercolors of the Himalayas and portraits of his fellow soldiers. A year after he was discharged, he and his wife traveled from Maine to New Orleans so he could paint more familiar scenes, the maritime subjects and historical architecture that he became his trademark.

The couple stopped in Winston-Salem to visit her family, and Stuart was drawn to the Colonial-era buildings in Salem. As plans to restore Old Salem were gaining support, the Salem Book Store commissioned several paintings and etchings of existing buildings and others that no longer stood. His paintings of the town's early buildings, including Winkler Bakery, Salem Tavern and Home Church, are iconic. Stuart's work has been used for decades to raise funds for the project and support the on-going mission to fully tell the area's foundational history.

The only child of insurance agent WS Archibald Sr. and his wife Julia Logan, Stuart was surrounded by creative people. Not only was Julia an author and artist but her father and sister were also artists. His "talent comes rightly through a family full of artists," reported the Winston-Salem Journal in May 1947. He "has been subjected to domestic training and has had a brush in his hand from his earliest recollections ... Professional instruction was scarcely necessary," they concluded. But it was pursued, nonetheless, at Friends Seminary in NYC and the Masters Institute of the Roerich Museum in New York.

Like his mother, he was a member of the Dutchess County (N.Y.) Art Association. By 1942 he was a juried artist with his work appearing in exhibitions across the country, including several major one-man shows in Cleveland and New York. Eventually he was accepted into the storied Salmagundi Club which boasted such artists as Louise Comfort Tiffany and Norman Rockwell as members.

The couple lived in Winston-Salem several times over the years from 1953. An independent commercial artist most of his life, he travelled widely and was noted for the variety of his work in many mediums from silver design to wood



PROVIDED BY OLD SALEM

Stuart Archibald is known for his paintings of Old Salem and architectural renderings of some of the city's buildings.

block prints, but he was most known for his watercolors, whether historical buildings or nautical scenes.

Between 1959 and 1962 he worked with local architects Lashmit, James, Brown and Pollock, William Roy Wallace, Fred Butner Jr. and Stinson-Arey-Hall. He produced the architectural renderings for such projects as Industries for the Blind's construction at the corner of Cherry and Coliseum, Forsyth Senior High School and Fairview Elementary. He also did the first architectural rendering of Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

"We love it here and hate to leave," he told the Twin City Sentinel in 1955 before he took a design position with International Silver in New England. "Folks have been so kind to us, we feel like a part of the community, but the offer was too good to turn down. But we'll be coming back, and I'll be painting when we do. I enjoy it too much to give it up entirely."