

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DEAN J. MEEKER

Dean J. Meeker, emeritus professor of art died on October 4, 2002. Born in Colorado in 1920, he earned his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the Art Institute of Chicago, graduating in 1945. Meeker taught painting, printmaking, drawing and sculpture from 1946 to 1992 in the Department of Art. He developed the first ever university-affiliated serigraphy course in 1948.

Dean Meeker has been a leading figure in American art for more than five decades. He has been an innovator of print methodology since the late 1940's when his impact prompted America's interest in silkscreen printing as a fine art form and generated the process (called serigraphy) in printmaking programs in art schools, colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Meeker received the first Graduate School Research Grant awarded to a studio art faculty member in 1954, and was awarded the first Guggenheim Fellowship in the department in 1959 at a time when he was developing an innovative combination of serigraphy and intaglio. His year of work in Paris culminated in a one-person show at LaGravure Gallery, Paris.

In 1960 Dean was one of the first printmakers to overprint silkscreen with intaglio and colograph. He collaborated with engineer John McFee to invent the Meeker-McFee motorized etching press. Artists and educational institutions purchased the press because it represented an important technological breakthrough.

Professor Meeker was the first person on the art faculty to have his work the subject of a doctoral thesis in art history. It was written by Tom Dewey in 1976 for his degree in the Department of Art History here. The thesis provided a comprehensive history of Meeker's life, achievements, printmaking innovations and techniques, and a chronological list of prints through 1975.

Dean Meeker had over 90 one-person shows, and is recognized as one of the outstanding printmakers in the country. He exhibited the first one-person serigraphy show at the Print Department of the Art Institute of Chicago at a time when silkscreen was not considered to be a fine art process. His work is represented in over 100 museum, library, university, and private collections throughout the world including: the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris; Malmo Municipal Museum, Sweden; Cognac Museum, France; Hakone Open Air Museum, Japan; Art Institute of Chicago; Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Dallas Museum of Art; Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.; National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Pratt Institute, Brooklyn; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; J.C. Leisring Fine Arts Foundation, Santa Rosa, California; DeCordova and Dana Museum; the Library of Congress; Seattle Art Museum; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Milwaukee Museum of Art; Elvehjem Art Museum, Madison; National Serigraphy Society of New York; U.S. Information Agency and Embassies in Ankara, Athens, Bagdad, Berlin, Bonn, Bucharest, Caracas, Lima, New Delhi, Prague, Sophia, Warsaw. His work has been recognized by numerous awards of which the Utsukushi-Ga-Hara Prize, 2nd Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition in Japan serves as an excellent example.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dean Meeker's pioneering spirit, innovation, creativity, and professionalism has been an inspiration to his students and his colleagues.

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