



Philip Evergood (1901-1973)

Philip Evergood was born in 1901 in New York City of English and Australian parents. By age 4, he began to study music and was in a piano concert with his teacher in 1908. He was educated in England, mainly at Eton and Cambridge. At age 20, he decided to study art so he left Cambridge and studied art in England for two years before returning to New York where he studied at the Art Students League. He went back to Europe, this time to Paris, for more study before returning to the US permanently as a working artist. He became noted for his deliberately awkward drawing and his spontaneous bold lines. His pictures are frequently humorous, often fantastic and sometimes openly symbolic. Even his colors were not conventional. *The Little Accomplices*, another work in the KIA collection demonstrates these qualities well.

Evergood studied engraving as well as etching and lithography and began to do mostly original printmaking after 1945. He suffered many hardships including severe illness, an almost fatal operation and constant financial trouble. He was finally rescued financially by Joseph Hirshorn who bought several paintings for his gallery in Washington, DC. Evergood worked on WPA art projects from 1934 to 1937 where he painted two murals: *The Story of Richmond Hill* for a public library in Queens, NY and another mural in Jackson, Georgia. These works brought him to the attention of the greater art world. He came to live and work in Kalamazoo in the early 1940s when he was given a Carnegie Foundation grant to paint a 40 x 15 foot mural on the wall of Welles Hall dining room at Kalamazoo College (which is still there). During his stay in Kalamazoo, he taught a few classes at the KIA and even painted with my aunt, Katie Hodgman.

Evergood painted, made prints, and taught both music and art for years until he was killed in a house fire in Bridgewater, CT in 1973, at age 72. His works are in the many of the prominent museums of America, including the Smithsonian and Hirshorn in Washington DC, the Tate Gallery in London, as well as Boston, LA, Art Institute of Chicago and both the Metropolitan and Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Submitted by Joann Dodson



The Little Accomplices, 1939, oil on burlap



Portrait of Artist Robert Gwathmey, 1945-46, ink and pencil on paper