

## YVONNE TWINING HUMBER

Mother: Emma Potts Twining. Opera singer Emma d'Egremont

Father: Harry Esmond Twining. Textiles, amateur painter

B 1907 in New York when her mother was 41

Moved to Montreal then England - *the height of the British Empire?*

Art and music were an influence at an early age

Father died 1917 pneumonia -

“Not appropriate for women to work” - gives one an idea of the class she was born into.

Waited over a year for passage on a troopship. Iowa, Montreal, Massachusetts - Berkshires with her mother and aunt

Studies with artists residing in the Berkshires; 1925 “conservative National Academy of Design” NY City developed drawing skills. To provide perspective on “conservative” women students had to use plaster casts as their models because they were prohibited from viewing live models.

Supported by fellowships and then the WPA

With the end of the WPA and the refusal of galleries in NY or Boston to show her work”, the “family” was financially compromised. Arranged marriage to a visitor to the Berkshires, Irving Humber who had a wholesale drug and cosmetics business in Seattle.

Humber was recognised as an accomplished artist with a one woman exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum, awards, prizes. tastes of reviewers and collectors changed - from (Magic) Surrealism to Abstract.

She had stopped painting and was pretty much forgotten until the 1980's when David Martin, the curator of this show, who had admired her work on the east coast, tracked Humber down and opened a gallery.

Since then her work has seen a resurrection in museums and books.

One assumes the rise of her popularity afforded her the means to endow Twining Humber Award after a financially difficult life. This award for women artist 60 and over.

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