



Noyes
Museum of Art
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Education Guide

Fred Winslow Noyes, Jr.

American, 4/19/1905 – 6/2/1987

Fred Noyes was an artist, entrepreneur, and ardent collector of art, antiques and folk art. He and his wife, Ethel Noyes, were the founders of The Noyes Museum of Art. To know the artist, one has only to see his work to understand what inspired him—rivers, landscapes, and wildlife. To know the man, one must have an understanding of rural New Jersey, where Fred Noyes ultimately put down roots not only as an artist, but also as a benefactor of the community and its culture.

Considering himself just “an old clam digger,” Fred Noyes was a hunter, trapper, gunner and a fisherman in Lower Bank, as well as a painter and historian before success as a restaurateur tossed him into the world of the well-heeled local gentry.

As a young man, he attended the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. His stay, however, at the Academy was brief, as he wished to experiment outside the strict classical painting styles that were fostered there. At the invitation of Albert Barnes, Fred began studying at the Barnes Foundation in Merion, PA.



Fred W. Noyes, Jr., *Tangerines*, oil, 1999.007.040



Fred Winslow Noyes, Jr., center, with father and mother

The Barnes allowed Fred to develop perception and art theory skills, which he later applied to his compositions. Noyes' early works of the mid-1930s consist largely of landscapes and still lifes, which are categorized as serene, yet moody, and reminiscent of the works of Daniel Garber, a contemporary figure among Pennsylvania Impressionists.

Following a move to New Jersey in 1933, Noyes was inspired by Paul Cezanne's analytical flat planes, as well as the bright primitive color and passionate

brush strokes employed by Fauvist artists Andre Derain and Henri Matisse. In 1941, Noyes' artistic progress was interrupted by World War II when he was drafted and sent to France.

Almost losing his legs, he spent six months in an army hospital. Upon his return from the war, he met his future wife, Ethel Lingelbach, a member of the local rations board. The pair married, moved into a log cabin in Absecon, New Jersey, and went into the antiques business, a portent of their future endeavors together.

Their new business met with little success at first, though their ambitious efforts were prophetic. They knocked on doors asking if there was anything they could buy or sell, operating from their basement floor. Amid the pursuit for antiques to collect and buy, Fred also pursued his love of painting.

In 1952, Fred and Ethel Noyes founded what would become the Historic Towne of Smithville when they bought seven acres of an old stagecoach stop with a single building for \$3,500.00. They turned the old building into an antiques shop but soon were operating a restaurant as well, because people who came to buy wanted somewhere convenient to eat. They began by offering sandwiches, but a bar soon followed. "Our first bar was a card table and a bucket of ice on the floor," Noyes reported.

Noyes continued to paint throughout his business ventures. In the early '70s Fred's artistic style changed dramatically. His new abstract works were vivacious, rhythmic and colorful, conveying the joy of life, evocative of the work of Spanish artist Joan Miro.

Being of true entrepreneurial spirit, Fred and Ethel went on to develop The Ram's Head Inn nearby. The restaurant was one of the area's finest. In 1975, Fred and Ethel Noyes retired from their restaurant enterprise. Fred's love of nature continued to fill his paintings with images of sun, wind and birds. Filled with lush color and whimsical forms, these paintings are at once uniquely Noyes and uniquely southern New Jersey.



Fred W. Noyes, Jr., *Fish Swirls*, acrylic on paper, 1999.007.196

Fred Winslow Noyes died in 1987 of natural causes at the age of 82. Today, his art continues to inspire us, and the exhibitions and programs at The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University preserve his legacy by promoting an appreciation for New Jersey's artists and their work.

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The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University <http://www.noyesmuseum.org> (609) 626-3420

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