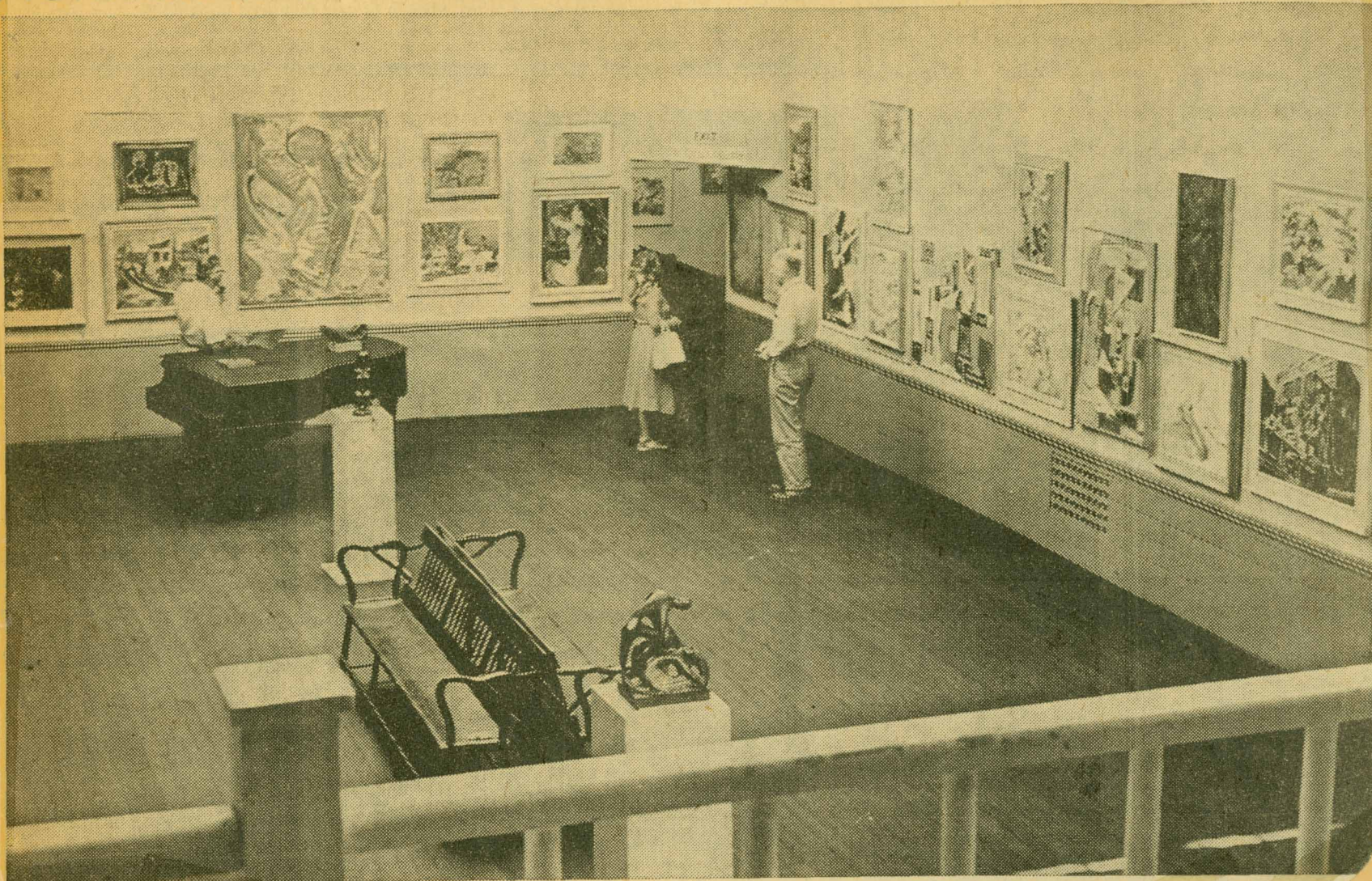


# Provincetown's Art Galleries Are Top Tourist Attraction



The main gallery of the Provincetown Art Association Building offers a quiet retreat from the bustling activity of the Cape-tip town. The building is one of two major galleries in Provincetown with many smaller showrooms attracting art lovers.

## Art Association

(Continued)  
A Permanent Home

1921 was a very active year in the history of the Provincetown Art Association. Steps were made to draw up a constitution and to incorporate the institution. The new building, the "east building" remodeled by the local construction firm of Frank A. Days and Sons, was ready in time for the opening of the seventh annual exhibition. Rev. Henry Mottet pronounced the invocation. New exhibitors included: Edwin Reeves Euler, Carl Frieseke, Gifford Beal, Charles A. Kaeselau, Richard Miller, Donald Witherstine, Courtney C. Allen and Max Bohm.

1922 shows the Association raising

funds much like it does today. Funds were acquired through life memberships, parties (lawn fetes), dues, advertising in the catalogue, a costume ball, admissions and lectures.

In 1923 Charles A. Kaeselau was appointed acting director and later director. Like many former Chicago Art Institute students, he frequented Provincetown in the early 1920's. Among them were: Henry Sutter, Vaclav Vitacil, Gerrit Sinclair, Karl Knaths, Frank Schwartz, Cameron Booth and Ross Moffett. The foreword of the catalogue of the Ninth Annual Exhibition exclaimed: "The Museum building is now the Art Center of the town and of the Cape, and the promised activities to be held during the exhibition will bring the artists and their public together in a friendly way. By

the Art Lectures and Concerts and frequent dances, all the art will receive homage within the Museum, of which Provincetown is so justly proud."

In 1924 illness forced Kaeselau to resign his position. Besides the art schools of Browne, Hawthorne and Webster the Art Association Catalogue reveals two new schools, one conducted by James R. Hopkins and Randolph LaSalle Coates, and one conducted by Ross Moffett and Harry R. Pfeiffer. New exhibitors for this period include: Vollian Rann, J. Floyd Clymer, Jerry Farnsworth, Evelin Bodfish Bourne, Elizabeth Warren, Howard Gibbs and Frederick Waugh.

### The Modernistic Rebellion

In 1925 Dr. Percival Eaton, a retired physician, was named director. He assumed the office on a temporary basis

and, despite a strong bent towards conservatism, he directed the association and efficiency. The new exhibitors appearing this season were: Grace Pfeiffer, Morris Davidson, Anton Van Dereck, H. F. Wong, Harold Walker, Shelby Shackelford and Martha Hoke.

When 1926 rolled around, Harold Haven Brown was the director. A former director of the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, he was well qualified for the post. At this time tension was increasing between modern and conservative factions in the organization. Contributing to this stress was the fact that the constitution did not readily provide for change of officer personnel in line with changes in outlook of the membership. Discontent over the jury list for the 1926 exhibition resulted in the circulation of a petition written by Tod Lindenmuth

and Ross Moffett. The petition stated: "Considering the fact that there are in Provincetown two groups, each having a different opinion as to what forms of painting are most likely to manifest genuine artistic merit, we regard it as unfair and out of keeping with American traditions for representatives of either group to be the sole arbiters as to what paintings shall be shown in the galleries of the Association . . . we . . . petition the Director and the Board of Trustees of the Association to add four painters of modernistic sympathies to the jury for the forthcoming exhibition . . ."

At the subsequent business meeting a motion was passed to appoint additional jurors, but it was not until the July 15th meeting of that year that the modern faction won its point, much to their own amazement. In that meeting it was decided that "in the future in addition to the regular annual show directed by the vice-presidents and their jury, another show of equal duration shall be held by the moderns directed by a committee selected by them from their numbers."

1927 saw the "First Modernistic Exhibition" open July 2nd and close the 25th. A great deal of interest and enthusiasm was shown in it. Artists appearing for the first time in the modern show were: Niles Spencer, Jack Tworokov, George Ault, Blanche Baxter, Joe Meierhans, Charles Martin and Richard Cox. The regular annual show was held in August and the new exhibitors appearing here were: Raymond Eastwood, Elsa Hartman, Helen Sawyer, Thomas Blakeman, Herman Kahle, Arthur Musgrave and Coulton Waugh.

The attitude of the officers of the Association had been well expressed the year before by President Young: "Differences of opinion naturally arise in the conduct of the affairs of any association or corporation and such differences are manifestations of interest and usually of strength. Without them the Association is apt to lack life and vitality. We have had such manifestations during the past year which no doubt will result in the general good of all, and I think we are to be congratulated on the spirit of toleration and respect each individual or party has shown for the opinions of the other."

D.J.