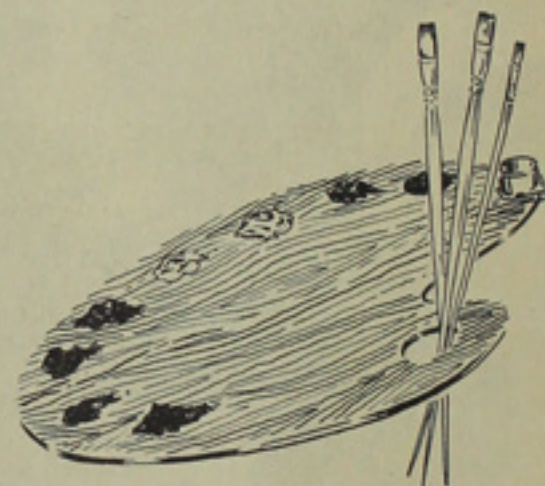


Personalities on the National SCENE

SUEO SERISAWA

'In a Serisawa is to
be Found the
Poetry of Painting'



'...SLATED TO BE placed among the first painters in the country.' Such is the praise lavished on quiet and modest 39-year-old Sueo Serisawa of Los Angeles.

Rapidly showing promise of becoming one of the country's great painters is quiet, unassuming 39-year-old Sueo Serisawa of Los Angeles, California.

The following lavish praises have been bestowed upon this young Japanese artist by the art critics:

"Serisawa's figures...filled with such sad beauty, sensitivity and human understanding that I could not help but feel that here is something of Rembrandt's spirituality expressed in modern language."

"In a Serisawa is to be found the poetry of painting. Few of his contemporaries have quite his feeling and skill."

"...developing a maturity of approach that is slated to put him among the first painters in the country."

Came to U.S. when Eight

Sueo Serisawa was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1910. Eight years later, his parents came to the United States, to Los Angeles, and brought little Sueo with them.

From the beginning, the child showed his interest in art by constantly scribbling with pencil and crayons.

"I guess he wants to eventually paint, too," his father laughingly proclaimed to his neighbors, for Yoichi Serisawa was a painter in his own rights.

Studies Painting under His Father

As he grew older, Sueo studied painting under his

father and then under George Barker, well-known American artist.

Then in 1934, young Serisawa packed his bags and went east to enroll at the Art Institute of Chicago.

At the start, it was noticeable that his work contained grace and poetry, and color seemed an inborn talent.

After several prizes for his work and an ever-increasing demand from art dealers, Serisawa had his first one-man exhibition at the Los Angeles Museum in 1941.

First and Last Exhibition for a While

It was his first and last exhibition for several years, for, unfortunately, it opened on the very day Japanese planes appeared on the Hawaiian horizon and dropped their bombs on Pearl Harbor.

The years after that saw Serisawa - now married and with a baby girl - residing temporarily in Denver, then in Chicago, then in New York's Greenwich Village.

Bitter-coated Advantage

Perhaps, these five years were a bitter-coated advantage, for the struggling painter turned this period into one of intellectual growth and spiritual triumph. He studied and surveyed all contemporary masters. He compared values, analyzed styles and finally emerged with his present way of painting.

In 1946, Serisawa was back among his friends in California. April 12 to May 8 of this year, he held his first postwar one-man exhibition at the Dalzell Hatfield Galleries in Los Angeles.

Critics fell in love with his work, and his canvases were immediately bought up.

Many of the critics, upon viewing his work, have declared that he is destined to become one of America's leading painters.

Serisawa views all this with his customary quiet and modesty and still feels that his work can be constantly improved.

It can be noticed that in many of his paintings, Serisawa uses his attractive wife, Mary, as his model.

His little daughter, Mar, also comes in for her share of modeling.

Another Serisawa?

There might well be another Serisawa soon prominent in national art circles, for seven-year-old Mar has been fussing with her daddy's oils since she was three. However, she will undoubtedly be the first to proclaim her father's superiority, for as she said, when she was three (in a childish voice but with perfect pronunciation!):

"Ah, yes! Serisawa and Modigliani - my favorite painters!"



'PIERROT' by Serisawa won the Carol H. Beck Gold Medal at a showing held in the Pennsylvania Academy in 1947.



A MEDAL OF HONOR was accorded Serisawa's painting of his wife, entitled 'Mary, 1948,' in the Paintings of the Year Exhibition held last year by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company.



THIS IS the Serisawas' seven-year-old daughter, Mar, who is also interested in painting. She has been fussing with her daddy's oils since she was three.

However, little Mar will be the first to proclaim her father's superiority, for as she was heard to say when she was but three: 'Ah, yes! Serisawa and Modigliani - my favorite painters!'