

Tuesday, April 12, 1977

Martha Burchfield Richter, Painter, Is Dead at 53

Mrs. Martha Burchfield Richter, daughter of internationally famous artist Charles E. Burchfield and a master painter in her own right, is dead at age 53.

The medical examiner's office said Mrs. Richter died from an apparent overdose of drugs.

She was pronounced dead at 1:15 AM Saturday at Buffalo Mercy Hospital. She was stricken at her home, 224 Cloverside Dr., West Seneca.

Like her father, Mrs. Richter specialized in painting of Western New York flora, and in recent years she painted numerous farmscapes.

Mrs. Richter was well known in Buffalo for her art exhibits in several local galleries.

In recent years she was said

to have developed a style somewhat distinctive from her father's.

In "July Reflections," 1972, a placid river reflected bright trees and, in a sense, critics said, the work reflected the master.

"I've had to fight comparison with my father all my life," she once told a reporter. "I was always Charles Burchfield's daughter."

Although Mrs. Richter had a studio in her own home, it was her style to put her easel in the car and drive until she found a scene worth painting.

Mrs. Richter is survived by her husband, Henry E. Richter; two sons, Thomas in Boston, Mass., and David of Baltimore; a daughter, Mrs. Peggy Haug of Washington State; three sisters, and a brother.

Exhibit to Honor Deceased Artist

The Burchfield Center at Buffalo State College will mount a Memorial Tribute Art Exhibit

to the late Martha Burchfield Richter, a prominent Buffalo-area artist who died April 9 in her West Seneca home.



Mrs. Richter

According to center director Dr. Edna M. Lindemann, the tribute exhibit will be installed in the portion of the gallery usually devoted to works by the late artist's father, watercolorist Charles Burchfield.

The exhibit will include about 25 works by Mrs. Richter, all

loaned to the center by family and center friends.

According to Dr. Lindemann, many of the watercolors and the drawings to be displayed were award winners in area art exhibitions. Works lent by each member of her immediate family will also be shown.

The exhibit, according to Dr. Lindemann, is not retrospective, though it will include works from a number of years.

Mrs. Richter most recently exhibited watercolors in the Brian Art Galleries and the Carriage House Gallery.

The exhibit will open Sunday, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and continue at the center through July 30.

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Mrs. Henry E. Richter

Mrs. Richter Dies; Noted Local Artist

Private funeral services for Mrs. Henry E. Richter, 53, an artist and daughter of internationally famed artist Charles Burchfield, were held at the family's convenience.

Mrs. Richter, the former Martha Burchfield, was pronounced dead Saturday (April 9, 1977) at Mercy Hospital after being stricken at her West Seneca home.

The Erie County Medical Examiner's office is investigating the cause of her death.

A specialist in watercolor landscape painting, Mrs. Richter was well known in Buffalo for her art exhibitions in several local galleries. Her most recent exhibition was last May at the Carriage House Gallery in Buffalo.

Other Exhibits

She also had exhibited her work locally at the Sisti Gallery and at the Lakeview Hotel in Hamburg.

Mrs. Richter, winner of a national art competition in the 1950s, also had displayed her work in New York City, Detroit and in Salem, Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio.

In recent years, she was said to have developed a style that was somewhat distinctive from her father's.

In a 1972 painting, "July Reflections," a placid river reflected bright trees and in a sense, according to critics, the work reflected the master.

She once told a reporter: "I've had to fight comparison with my father all my life. I was always Charles Burchfield's daughter."

Buffalo Native

Although she had a studio in her home, her style was to put an easel in the car and drive until she found a scene worth painting.

Born in Buffalo, Mrs. Richter was a graduate of the former Gardenville High School. She studied at the Albright Art School and at the Cleveland Institute.

Surviving are her husband; two sons, Thomas of Boston, Mass, and David of Baltimore, Md.; a daughter, Mrs. Peggy Haug of Coleville, Wash.; three sisters, Mrs. Sally Ferris of Delaware, Mrs. Mary Alice Mustain of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Catherine Parker of Amarillo, Tex.; a brother, Arthur of Poughkeepsie; and one grandchild.