



*Door in Amana*

**Grant Wood**

Oil on artist board, 1930

Gift of the Marion Musser Lloyd Estate



### Grant Wood (1891-1942)

Born on a farm near Anamosa, Iowa, Grant Wood spent most of his life in Cedar Rapids. In 1913, he moved to Chicago to study at the School of the Art Institute, but by 1916, due to financial difficulties, Wood returned to Cedar Rapids. In 1920, Grant Wood, along with fellow artist Marvin Cone, made the first of four trips to Europe. In late 1930, *American Gothic* won third prize in the Art Institute of Chicago's Annual Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture. The popularity of the painting made Wood a national figure.

Wood served as Director of the Public Works of Art Projects (PWAP) for Iowa beginning in 1934. A year later he began teaching at the University of Iowa where he continued teaching nearly until his death in 1942. Wood became a spokesman for the concept of Regionalism in art, helping to shape America's vision of the Midwestern landscape and the people that inhabit it.

### Collection Connection

The Muscatine Art Center's Regionalist Collection contains two dozen paintings and prints by Grant Wood. This collection also includes works by a wide range of artists who were taught by Wood, developed their artistic skills at the Stone City Art Colony (Wood was one of the founders of the colony), worked on PWAP projects supervised by Wood, exhibited at the Iowa Art Salon in the 1930s-40s or taught with Wood at the University of Iowa. Iowa-born artist, Alma Held taught art classes at the University of Iowa during Wood's tenure. She was recognized for her exquisite portraits both in oil and watercolor. Nearly 40 paintings and drawings by Held are preserved in the Muscatine Art Center's collection.



Alma Held  
*Reflection (Self-Portrait)*  
Oil on canvas, undated  
Gift of E. Bradford Burns