



*Iowa Landscape*

**John Bloom,**

Oil on canvas, 1931

Collection Muscatine Art Center, 50th Anniversary Acquisition



## John Bloom (1906-2002)

John Bloom produced paintings, murals, sculptures, lithographs and drawings that reflected Midwest living and landscapes. Born in DeWitt, Iowa, Bloom became a prominent figure throughout the eastern Iowa art community. He attended St. Ambrose University and the Tri-City Art League School. In 1926, he enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago where he later taught first-year drawing and composition classes.

In 1932, Bloom won a prize at the Iowa State Fair for an oil painting. This caught the attention of fellow Iowa artist Grant Wood, who invited Bloom to study under him at the Stone City Art Colony in Anamosa, Iowa. When Wood launched the Public Works of Art Project for the State of Iowa (PWAP), Bloom worked beside him. Later, he worked as an industrial designer and was eventually employed as an artist for the Army Corps of Engineers. In 1969, Bloom retired and actively produced art until his death in 2002.

## Collection Connection

Grant Wood, Adrian Dornbush and Marvin Cone established the Stone City Art Colony near Anamosa, Iowa in 1932. The Muscatine Art Center's Regionalist Collection contains works by many artists who attended the art colony. During the Great Depression, financial difficulties made it necessary to close the art colony after only a few years.

Cone continued to grow in fame throughout the 1940s and 1950s. His works were included in gallery exhibitions in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington D.C. Cone was a full-time professor at Coe College and headed the Art Department until 1960.

Marvin Cone  
*Silent Rooms*

Oil on canvas, circa 1950

Gift of the Muscatine County Museum and Fine Arts Association

