

**Bennington College**

**presents**

**PAINTINGS AND OBJECTS**

**by**

**GEORGE A. C. HOLT**

**The New Gallery**

**June 1 - 15, 1958**

## GEORGE A. C. HOLT

It is often said that those who can, paint; those who cannot, teach. In a good many instances, however, the reverse is equally true: those who can, teach; those who cannot teach, paint. And sometimes those who can both paint and teach do them both well. George Holt is one of these.

Mr. Holt is less the painter in the traditional sense of the word than the explorer of processes in painting and allied crafts. This interest has a basis of solid professional training, in the laboratories of the Fogg Art Museum, and in work of restoration of the mosaics of Hagia Sofia carried on under the late Thomas Whittemore. Mr. Holt can claim the distinction of being the author of one of the largest exhibits in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: the superb facsimiles of some of these mosaics, first cast in a mold and then patiently colored, tessera by tessera. A high regard for craftsmanship has marked his several ventures into new techniques, including paint-

ing in *pastiglia*, unexpected variations on the *collage*, and those delightfully ephemeral metal ornaments which have most recently attracted his attention. Under his sure guidance his students at Bennington have produced interesting work in mosaic and fresco, techniques which he understands perhaps as well as anyone alive.

During the war, we were privileged to have Mr. Holt direct our studio work at Williams, and to know at first hand his ability to bring out whatever a student had of latent creative interest. It was he who first established our work in architectural design.

At this writing, I do not know what examples of George Holt's work are to be included in the present exhibition. I am partial, though, to a self-portrait of many years ago, rather in the style of André Derain of 1912, yet strangely Byzantine, at once forceful and reticent: a true expression by an admirable man.

**S. LANE FAISON, JR.**

Chairman, Art Department  
Williams College

George A. C. Holt was born in Montreal, where he received his early schooling. Coming to the United States, he earned the B. S. degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1930, later taught in the fine arts department at Harvard University and in the Harvard Summer School. His work for the Byzantine Institute of America at Istanbul in 1938 and 1939 is now owned by the Fogg Museum in Cambridge and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Mr. Holt was a co-founder, with other artists, of *The Atelier* in Montreal; and a co-founder and member of the staff of the Painters Workshop in Boston. He has taught at Bennington since 1941.

**Opening June 1, 8:00 p. m.**

**Coffee will be served.**