

OWINGS-DEWEY FINE ART

A GALLERY FOR 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN ART
CONSULTATION | SALES | APPRAISAL

DOEL REED (1894 – 1985)

Born on May 21, 1894, at his grandfather's farmhouse in rural Indiana, Reed grew up in Indianapolis with his parents and one sister. He displayed an early flair for art and attended Saturday drawing classes at the John Herron Art Museum from grade school through High School. The classes further whetted his creative interests and abilities. Upon high school graduation in 1912, Reed apprenticed with a local architect for four years but Reed's desire to paint and draw prevailed, and in 1916 he enrolled in the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1918, Reed volunteered for the service and was sent to France where he served in the U.S. Army in the 47th Infantry, 4th Division returning to the U.S. after he was hospitalized for exposure to mustard gas, which caused temporary blindness and permanent lung damage. Reed took up his studies once again at the Academy in 1919 where he was first exposed to the printmaking process.

Reed married Elizabeth Jane Sparks in 1920 and found employment in northern Kentucky as an assistant at Donaldson's Lithograph House. Focusing on process and technique, Reed initially executed line etchings, his first etching was for the birth announcement for his daughter, Martha Jane, in 1922.

Reed first heard about the Southwest's boundless natural beauty and ancient cultures through his associate from the Academy, Joseph Henry Sharp. Reed moved to the dry climate of Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1924 and accepted a teaching position at Oklahoma A & M College (renamed Oklahoma State University in 1957), and remained at the College for the next 35 years. Spurred by his friends Howard Cook and Ernest L. Blumenschein, Reed often visited New Mexico and eventually retired to Taos. Reed made himself a vital member of the art community and in 1965 teamed up with Gustave Baumann and the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe for publications and a traveling exhibit about the unique print processes used by each artist.

Reed exhibited in approximately 350 juried shows, winning over one hundred national and international awards for his art. He was a member of the National Academy of Design and several major retrospective exhibits were held prior to his death in 1985.