

Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery

Frederick Remahl, “When Smoke Goes Down”

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

WHIMSY AND AN OUTSIDERS ALIENATION float through the works of Frederick Remahl and are distilled in an exhibit at Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery as a statement on the life of the immigrant and artist in Chicago mid 20th Century. The exhibit, *Frederick Remahl, When Smoke Goes Down*, will be on view through August 1st.

Equally divided between watercolors on paper and oil on canvas, this show



Frederick Remahl

is made up of 21 pieces that focus on Remahl's imagined landscapes. It features many of his iconic “Doll” figures that populate these spaces, representing the artist's vision from the 1920s through the 1950s.

Remahl was born on a small island off Bohuslan, Sweden on June 18th, 1901 and lived there until his family immigrated to a Swedish community in Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior when he was 13. He is said to have inherited his artist's sensibilities from his mother, but he was formally trained at the Minneapolis School of Fine Art from 1920 to 1922. While there, he changed his name from Frederick Anderson to Frederick Remahl. In 1923 he traveled to Paris to continue his studies, then returned to settle in Chicago.

Remahl, with wife and children, found himself

challenged on an artist's wage to provide a livelihood, so painted houses to make ends meet during the depression. He was lucky and talented enough, though, to land work as a WPA artist in 1937. He went on to become a member

of numerous artists' associations, and was one of the founding members of Chicago's Society of Independent Artists.

From the islands of his homeland, to the shores of Lake Superior, to the beaches of Chicago's Lake Michigan, Remahl's watery environment influenced his artistic expressions. In his work the lonely beach walker and the lonely tree bow their heads, with a feeling of weariness in the face of images of ships, factories, and other modern phenomena. In them all, the figures seem isolated, one only, even in the presence of others, on a vast horizon, in a very big world.

Remahl's work was regularly exhibited at the Art institute of Chicago and was included in exhibits around the country including the Brooklyn Museum, the Pennsylvania Fine Art Institute, and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC.



Sunrise on the Pacific by Frederick Remahl



Forest Meditation by Frederick Remahl



Barn and Silo by Frederick Remahl

Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery now represents the artist's estate.

The Gallery is located at 7 East Anapamu St and is open daily 10-5:30pm. Reach them at 730-1460 or visit www.sullivangoss.com. Also on exhibit, *The Last New Century: American Art from 1880 – 1920*; *American Beach Life* by Contemporary Artist Pamela Hill Enticknap; and a new salon of work from the gallery's collection.