



**" The Z's ", by Charles Burdick**

COTUIT, MA – Wellfleet octogenarian Charles Burdick continues to be very much a working artist, painting nearly every day. And in recent years, he frequently paints other artists at work, providing his own playful interpretations of such masters as Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt, Henri Rousseau, Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin and Pablo Picasso ... A one-person exhibition and sale of more than 30 recent paintings will spotlight Burdick's highly original vision and give visitors the opportunity to discover a talent that has somehow escaped widespread notice here on Cape Cod.

Burdick started his series of famous artists in 2000. ... In "Mary Cassatt in Her Studio," the American expatriate works at her easel, painting one of her signature mother-and-child pieces. .... In another painting, van Gogh paints his renowned portrait of the postman Roulin while he and his subject sit in the room familiar from his several versions of "Bedroom at Arles."



**Charles Burdick - "Van Gogh and the Mailman" - Acrylic on masonite**

In addition to this relatively recent series, Burdick continues to paint animals, the subject that's occupied him in one form or another since the 1950s and '60s, when his specialties were spirited steeds and smoldering bulls inspired by Greek mythology. Since the 1980s, such themes as "Noah's Ark" and "The Peaceable Kingdom" have been habitats for his lovable-looking horses, unicorns, zebras, tigers and lions. As part of his artist series, Burdick fancied Henri Toulouse-Lautrec at this circus, painting the acts in the ring, including snow-white horses. Soon, the French artist had disappeared from his scenes, and the human and animal performers took over. A new series – a circus series – was born. Burdick's penchant for animals also inspired a medieval series, probably launched by "The Hunting of the Unicorn" legend.

Born in 1924 in Providence, Burdick won a scholarship to attend a class at Rhode Island School of Design when he was 9. Following service as a paratrooper during World War II, he enrolled at RISD for one year, then transferred to the Art Students League in New York. There, his instructors included such notable artists as Reginald Marsh, Will Barnett and Edwin Dickinson.

Burdick has had a home in Wellfleet since 1966 (and summered in Provincetown for a few years before that). He also had a gallery on Route 6 in the town from the late '60s to the late '80s, but never did any publicity. Then, last year, his daughter, Kate Burdick Barnholtz, opened the Burdick Art Gallery on Bank Street, primarily to showcase his paintings and works by other members of the family.

Burdick primarily supported his family of five by selling his work at outdoor art shows, including the legendary Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit in Greenwich Village and the Gold Coast Art Fair in Chicago. Since 1976, he's frequently shown at fine art festivals in Florida, where he spends several winter months on the east coast, in Sebastian. These are all juried shows, with prizes for exceptional work, and Burdick continues to receive his share of awards. In February, he won – for the third time – a Best in Show at the South Miami Rotary Art Festival. The art shows give Burdick the opportunity to express his gregarious side and enjoy people's delight over his paintings.

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