

The international career of Charles Keller is that of a painter, printmaker, and cartoonist balanced with the role of political activist. Scenes of labor and portraits of the disenfranchised are prominent in his work. A native of Long Island, NY, he graduated from Cornell University in 1936 and studied printmaking at the Art Students League, with Harry Sternberg and Will Barnet in the late 1930s and early 40s. Keller lived in Manhattan, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, and on a cooperative farm near Newburgh, NY until 1961 when he moved with his family to Rome, Italy, maintaining a studio there until 1973 when he relocated to New York City permanently.

From 1938 to 1941 Keller worked on a series of paintings and lithographs featuring the construction of the New York Sixth Avenue Subway. He assisted Harry Sternberg on murals for the Lakeview Post Office, Chicago, 1939/42, and for the 1939 New York World's Fair. The World's Fair mural was sponsored by the Roebling Cable Corporation and featured California's Golden Gate Bridge. Keller was an organizer of the *Young American Artists Association*, and the *Victory Workshop* in the 1940s.

In 1940/41 Keller's studio at One Union Square was on the same floor as Reginald Marsh, and in 1945/53 it was at 30 East 14th Street, shared with Harry Sternberg. There Keller was part of a thriving artists' community; Isabel Bishop, Minna Citron, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, and Raphael Soyer were all neighbors. Rockwell Kent was another friend from those years.

During World War II, in 1943, Keller was a civilian artist for the Navy. Also in that year he designed and did research for the *Airways to Peace* exhibition, at the Museum of Modern Art in NY. He was Art Editor of the *New Masses*, 1945/48, and for the *March of Labor*, 1949/51. He taught art history and studio art at Vassar College in 1952, and at Dutchess Community College in 1956, both in Poughkeepsie, NY. From 1961-1973 Keller worked in Rome and exhibited in Europe, primarily in Italy and Great Britain. Temporarily back from Italy, he taught art at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY in 1971 and at Parsons School of Design, NY, in 1992. He was a staff artist and editorial cartoonist for the *People's Daily World* from 1978 to 1988.

Work by Keller has been exhibited widely since 1939, when he first showed at the New York World's Fair in the American Art section and the Young American Artists Association. Among more than twenty solo shows of work by Keller are those at the New Age Gallery in NY, 1945, ACA Gallery in NY, 1952, Women's City Club Gallery in NY, 1960, Scorpio Gallery in Rome, Italy, 1963, Gallery 32 in Milan, Italy, 1965 and 1967, Drian Gallery in London, England, 1971, Princeton Gallery of Fine Art in New Jersey, 1972, the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, 1976 and Mid-Hudson Arts and Science Center in Poughkeepsie, NY, 1980.

Group exhibitions with Keller's work include the American Federation of the Arts traveling show in 1943, *25th Regional Exhibition*, Albany Institute of History and Art, NY in 1959, *Knickerbocker Artists*, National Arts Club, NY in 1960, *American Artists in Italy*, America Embassy, Rome in 1973, *Amerika, Trauma und Depression 1920-40*, Akademie der Kunste, Berlin, Germany in 1980, *The Artists of Union Square*, Associated American Artists and American Screen Prints, National Academy of Design in 1987, American Society of Contemporary Artists exhibitions, NY in 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2004, *America at Work, 1920-40*, Lubin House, Syracuse University Art Collection in Syracuse, NY, *L'Amérique de la Depression*, Musée-Galerie de la Seita, Paris, France, 1996; *Order/Disorder*, New York Public Library in NY, 1999, *American Scene and the WPA Era Printmakers*, Syracuse University in NY, 2000, *100 Years of Prints*, Art Students League exhibition in NY, 2002, *Rosenberg Show*, Puffin Room in NY, 2003 and *The American Scene*, the British Museum in London, England, 2008.

Charles is represented by Susan Teller Gallery in NY, where he was included in the inaugural exhibition, *Celebrating New York City*, 1988, *Mining Scenes of the 1930s and 40s*, (Charles Keller, Riva Helfond and Harry Sternberg), 1989, *The Artists of 30 East 14th Street*, 1992, *Industrial Realism*, 1997; and *A New York Triangle*, 1999. His one-man show, *Charles Keller, The Sixth Avenue Subway Construction, 1937-1941* took place in 1993. In 2004, *Charles Keller, A Ninetieth Birthday Celebration, Paintings, Prints, and Unique Works on Paper, 1939 to 1960*, took place at the Gallery to celebrate his long career.

Public collections with work by Charles Keller are the New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Art Students League in NY, Syracuse University Art Museum, the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Library of Congress, the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut, the Mary and Leigh Block Gallery, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, the Wolfsonian Museum, Florida International University, Miami Beach, the House of Friendship, Moscow, Russia, the Anticoli Corrado Museum of Art, Italy, the British Museum, London, England, and the Tamiment Library of New York University which holds the collection of his political cartoons. The Crisp Museum of the University of Southeast Missouri at Cape Girardeau, holds a major collection of Keller's work from the 1960's.