

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

DANIEL M. MENDELOWITZ (1905 – 1980)

Daniel M. Mendelowitz, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Art at Stanford, died February 13, 1980, at the age of seventy-five. A memorial program honoring Professor Mendelowitz was held March 1 at Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Dan Mendelowitz was well-known as a painter, a teacher and as an author. He had taught at Stanford for thirty-five years until his retirement in 1969. He was born in Lincoln, North Dakota, January 28, 1905. Because of his frail health, his parents moved to California. He graduated from Stanford in 1926 and received his master's degree a year later. In 1931 he received a scholarship to the Art Students League in New York and returned to resume teaching at San Jose State College until 1934, when he joined the Stanford Art Department. He married Mildred Mondschein September 4, 1935.

In addition to teaching painting and drawing, Professor Mendelowitz initiated courses in Art Education and in the History of American Art. His innovative course on the Motion Picture was the first to be offered by a California university. His paintings were handled by Gump's and the Maxwell Galleries in San Francisco and by the Los Robles Gallery in Palo Alto. In 1947 an exhibition of his work marked the first one-man show ever to be held at the Stanford Art Gallery.

As a painter he was perhaps best known for his watercolor landscapes, especially those of the Palo Alto-Stanford area. His paintings of the Santa Clara Valley fruit orchards in early spring blossom and those of the wild mustard fields preserve the memories of earlier decades of open land he loved. Visits to Mexico and Europe provided new subjects and his broad acquaintance with the contemporary painting movements provided ample numbers of changing styles, but it is indicative of his profound integrity that he never felt the lure of passing fads. His simplicity permitted him to say that he painted because he found his subjects "interesting and beautiful and I like to communicate the enthusiasm I feel."

Mr. Mendelowitz held joint appointments in the Department of Art and in the School of Education for many years and it was his intense interest in the development of the creative response which led to his first publication, *Children Are Artists*, Stanford University Press, 1953. In 1960, Holt, Rinehart and Winston published his *A History of American Art*, followed by *Drawing* in 1967. His concern for people is revealed in the dedication he wrote for *A History of American Art*:

To the thousands of forgotten artists,
artisans, and craftsmen who have helped shape
the face of America.

Dan Mendelowitz was a just man, a peacemaker and arbiter, whose concern for the rights of his colleagues often led to their defense. The appreciation of his sense of justice led his

colleagues to elect him President of the Stanford Chapter, American Association of University Professors.

He was a teacher whose best students inevitably became his life-long friends, and his friends just as inevitably became, in one way or another, his students. His wisdom, though enlivened by his wit, was not submerged by it.

In the Fall of 1979, a Retrospective Exhibition of Dan's work was held at the Stanford Art Gallery. The opening of the exhibition provided an opportunity for hundreds of his students, friends and admirers to express their love and it provided Professor Mendelowitz the joy of greeting them once again.

Dan Mendelowitz was a gentle and respected teacher, a patient and refreshing colleague, and a noble friend, He was a pioneer in Art at Stanford who will not be forgotten. It is with a profound sense of loss that we mark his passing but with an equally profound gratitude that we acknowledge the concordance of promise and fulfillment which was his life. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Mildred, his son, Louis, and his brother, Berman Mendelowitz, and sister, Leah Organ.

John LaPlante, Chairman
Felix Bloch
Robert Hofstadter
Matthew Kahn