

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. EDT, August 28, 2007

**CHARLES WARD RETURNS TO TRENTON COURTHOUSE
SPECIAL EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARD'S HISTORIC MURALS**

TRENTON, NJ AUGUST 28, 2007: The Historical Society for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey is proud to announce its first public art exhibit, "ART FOR EVERYONE: Murals and Paintings by Charles W. Ward," a celebration of Charles Ward's three New Deal murals and a retrospective display of works from the five-decade career of Charles Ward (1900 - 1962), at the United States Courthouse in Trenton, New Jersey. The exhibition opens on Thursday October 11th with a reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The free exhibit will continue Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through November 30, 2007.

"In 1935, Charles Ward made history when he painted the mural 'Progress of Industry,' in Trenton for the first national arts program under the New Deal." says Douglas Arpert, Esq. President of the Historical Society. "Research indicates that the mural is

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probably the first for the WPA-era program, In 1937 he completed two more, 'Rural Delivery' and 'The Second Battle of Trenton,' for what was then the Post Office and now the Federal Courthouse." says Bankruptcy Judge Kathryn Ferguson who has her chambers in the Trenton Courthouse.

"We're lucky enough to see these great works everyday at work," says Magistrate Judge John Hughes, "and we wanted the surrounding communities to have the chance to see them and other great works by Trenton native son Charles Ward." Judge Hughes has worked in the Trenton Courthouse for most of his career.

In addition to the three murals, nearly forty Ward paintings, drawings, archival photos and documents will be on display that document the history of the creation of the Trenton murals, as well as other New Deal murals that Ward created around the country. There are sketchbooks that reveal his initial ideas for the murals, photographs that show the murals as works in progress, and Ward's letters that describe what he painted and why.

"For a curator, the letters are the Rosetta Stone of what the artist was thinking," says David Leopold, curator of the exhibition. "It is rare to find a contemporaneous account from an artist on what inspired the works and why he chose to paint in this manner. Although these murals are commonly thought of as WPA works, like many across the country they were actually painted for the Fine Arts Section of the Treasury Department. Ward was writing to his Treasury Dept. contacts- who were

essentially the landlords of federal buildings at that time— explaining what he was doing, and providing photographs of how they were progressing.”

The exhibition also features examples of Ward’s other studio work including still lifes, portraits, and landscapes. “Ward’s easy versatility in oils, watercolor, drawing and printmaking, have drawn comparisons to Goya, Daumier, Rivera, and Reginald Marsh, ,” says Leopold, “but each work bears his personal stamp of integrity. His work is in a number of public collections including the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, the James A. Michener Art Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the New Jersey State Museum. For anyone who loves great painting, this is a great opportunity to see some terrific works.”

For additional information please contact Susan Travis at 973-645-6485.

General Information

WHAT

ART FOR EVERYONE: Murals and Paintings by Charles W. Ward

October 11 - November 30, 2007

Opening reception October 11, 2007 6 - 8 p.m.

WHERE

Clarkson S. Fisher Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse

402 East State Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

WHEN

Mondays through Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mural Mania and Courthouse Tours Saturday November 10, 2007 11 a.m. to
4 p.m.

WHO

Artist: Charles W. Ward (1900 - 1962)

Organizer: The Historical Society for the United States District
Court for the District of New Jersey

www.history.njd.uscourts.gov

ADMISSION: FREE

PRESS

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High res press images are available