A MEMORIAL EXHIBITION OF
WORKS OF
THE LATE MARTHA S. BAKER
AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF
CHICAGO, OCT. 1 TO 23, 1912
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THE WORK OF MARTHA S. BAKER.

Martha S. Baker was born at Evansville, Indiana, December 25, 1871; received her artistic education at the Art Institute of Chicago; exhibited and received honors both in America and abroad; died at Chicago, December 21, 1911. The present memorial exhibition brings together a representative collection of her works in oil, in water color, and in her special field of miniature painting.

Miss Baker's work in oil, it may be noted, shows two distinct periods, each with a marked manner. The earlier canvases are low in tone, reserved in color, and strongly individual in pattern. In this style she produced the strongest work in 1904 and 1905, the years when the portrait of "Helen," "Insouciance," and "In an Old Gown" were painted. These are works of serene but original beauty, very personal in conception, painted with breadth and authority.

The following period in the artist's development, more modern, perhaps, in its
tendency, but never so fulfilled in works, was devoted to painting in a higher key, and to the use of strong and pure color. It is best represented by one or two fresh and intimate portraits and by a number of delightful sketches, of which a series of the Luxembourg gardens, painted during an extended residence in Paris, and a series of small notes made on a tour of Norway, are here shown.

While in Paris, Miss Baker became interested in the use of pastel, made careful copies of the great works of Latour, and produced a number of portraits in this medium. Some of these, together with certain works in water color, (a medium in which she was particularly skillful,) are shown in the present exhibition.

But it was in miniature painting that Miss Baker's most notable successes were achieved. The same certainty of draughtsmanship which marked her oil portraits was present in her work on ivory, together with the insight for characterization which is the first requirement of good portraiture. Her miniatures were works of a very high
order, technically; the same serious and scrupulous consideration that might be bestowed upon a large canvas was given them. Her unusual and personal charm in the handling of water color appears in all of them. Miss Baker looked upon them as portraits, to be painted gravely and delicately on an ivory surface; never regarding them as bijouterie. But she had at the same time a keen appreciation of the special requirements of the medium, and never tried to carry it beyond its inherent boundaries. Her range of color and effects was always suited to the scale and surface quality of the ivory; and in her later miniatures a wonderful freshness of color and liquid freedom of handling was attained.

Miss Baker was represented at the Universal Exposition of 1900; exhibited often and successfully in the Salon, where she received an honorable mention, in 1909, for her miniature of Edward Warren Sawyer, the sculptor; and received high praise for works shown in the Royal Academy and other English exhibitions. In this country she has been honored by the St. Louis Ex-
position of 1904, The Municipal Art League of Chicago, the Chicago Society of Artists, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Carnegie Institute, and numerous other artistic organizations.
CATALOGUE
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OILS

1 Helen
2 In an Old Gown
3 Insouciance
4 Fairy Tales
5 Lazy Lady
6 Charles W. Clark
7 Girl in the Green Sack
8 Enid
9 Studio Interior
10 Miss Hirsch
11 Martha S. Baker
12 Evelyn Lent by Mr. Howard Shaw
13 Gay Lady
14 Luxembourg Sketch
15 Luxembourg Sketch
PASTELS

32 Virginia
33 Virginia
34 Virginia

PENCILS

35 Cora

MINIATURES

36 Rayna Simons    Lent by Mr. Joseph Simons
37 Senora Sorolla  Lent by Senor Sorolla y Bastida
38 Spring
39 Miss Ethel Coe
40 Miss Rose Knight
41 The Black Scarf
42 Ideal Head
43 Baby Jane
44 Miss Olga Oldberg
45 Miss Holcomb
46  Baby in Red Cap
47  Mrs. F. L. B. Jenney
48  Mrs. Dwight B. Cheever
     Lent by Mrs. Jean M. Vallette
49  Miss Marion Tooker
     Lent by Mrs. B. F. Felix
50  Mrs. T. B. Wagner
     Lent by Dr. T. B. Wagner
51  Mrs. E. M. Barton
     Lent by Mr. E. M. Barton
52  Mrs. M. H. MacLean
     Lent by Mrs. N. W. Harris
ILLUSTRATIONS
MRS. BARTON
HELEN
INSOUCIANCE
MINIATURE PORTRAIT OF MR. EDWARD SCHELL
A YOUNG WOMAN
IN AN OLD GOWN
A LOTUS