

PAC 30TH Anniversary
JCAL Annual Show at PAC Celebrates Lilian Fendig

Prairie Arts Council (PAC) was founded in 1993 and opened the Lilian Fendig Gallery in the Carnegie Center in Rensselaer. Lilian Fendig (1912 – 1985) was a talented English artist who married Rensselaer native, Ralph Fendig and lived out much of her adult life in Rensselaer (see bio below). In 1993 when PAC was forming, Ralph helped with its start-up by donating funding for a gallery and a body of Lilian’s artwork to form the core of the PAC permanent collection.

You are invited to create original artwork that would celebrate the life and art of Lilian Fendig. Lilian created art showing many different subjects, styles, and a variety of art media.

Biography - Lilian Fendig, born in England in 1912

Lilian always loved art, and at the age of 14 was awarded a scholarship to take a junior course at the largest school of Arts and Crafts in London. She was such a good art student that the scholarship was extended to cover four more years. She studied drawing, painting, sculpture, art history, and commercial art and design. She went on to teach high school art in English schools. During World War II (in the early 1940’s) she served as a volunteer in charge of arts and crafts at an American Station Hospital. It was at this time she met her future husband Ralph Fendig, a pharmacist from Rensselaer, who was stationed in England during the war. After the war, Lilian traveled to Rensselaer to marry Ralph and live there the rest of her life, always making art. She quickly became a well-known artist across Indiana, extensively showing her artwork in galleries, group shows, and over 20 solo shows. She won many awards in juried shows (more than 40) and shared her work with family, friends and patrons over her 55 year career, passing away in 1985.

Her Art and Interests

Lilian painted for the joy of creating a beautiful work of art. Her satisfaction came from the act of creating and from the pleasure her work gave to those who appreciated it. She and Ralph loved to travel and Lilian painted wherever they went, from her home base in Rensselaer, to Bermuda, Jamaica, St. Croix, California, Arizona, Maine, Wisconsin and especially Brown County Indiana. She loved to travel back to England with its picturesque countryside and small villages. She carried this love to scenes around rural Rensselaer that she often painted. Whether painting a close-up view of a vase of flowers gathered from her garden or a backyard view of a neighbor’s home, Lilian always captured “the essence” of her subject. Her work shows us a view that is both familiar and new—as if we are seeing a subject for the first time. She also enjoyed making sketches of people and painting portraits in oil paints. Another passion of Lilian’s was fashion design, sketching and making clothes. While she focused on visual art, she also loved performing arts and theater where she acted in productions and created costumes. Lilian was an artist inspired by her world and captured that world in her own creative way.

Her subjects included landscape/countryside (Rensselaer, Wisconsin, England), buildings in their location (barns; English villages), scenes in nature (wooded stream, birch trees), people/portraits (basketball players, cowboy, pencil sketches of girls), gardens/flowers (flowers in nature and as a still life in a vase), animals (horses on the dude ranch), fashion sketches (current and historical)

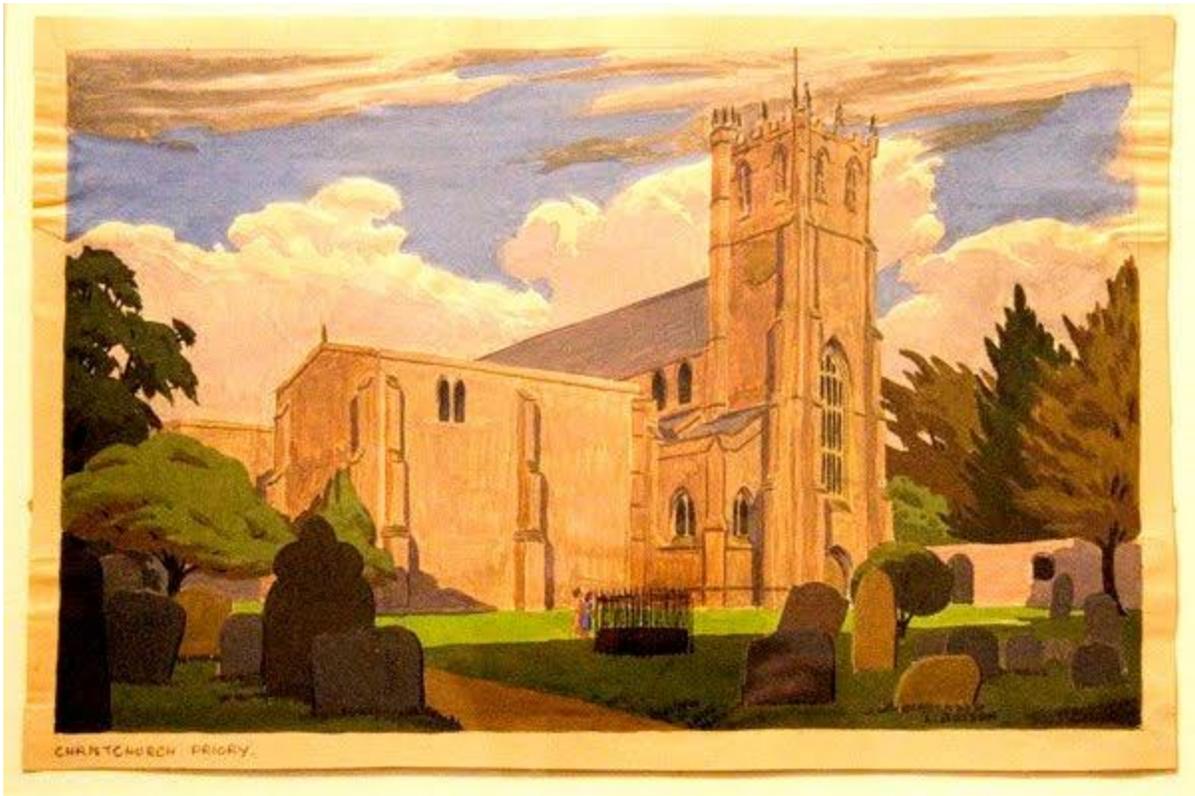
Her art styles were Realism (attempting to imitate the appearance closely) as well as Abstract (still recognizable subject matter but altered or simplified in the student’s own creative way)

Her art media included drawing, oil painting, gouache (like tempera paint), chalk pastels, printmaking, and her favorite, watercolor.

[Click here for the folder of photos shown below.](#)



54/100 Indiana Farm Lillian Fensig





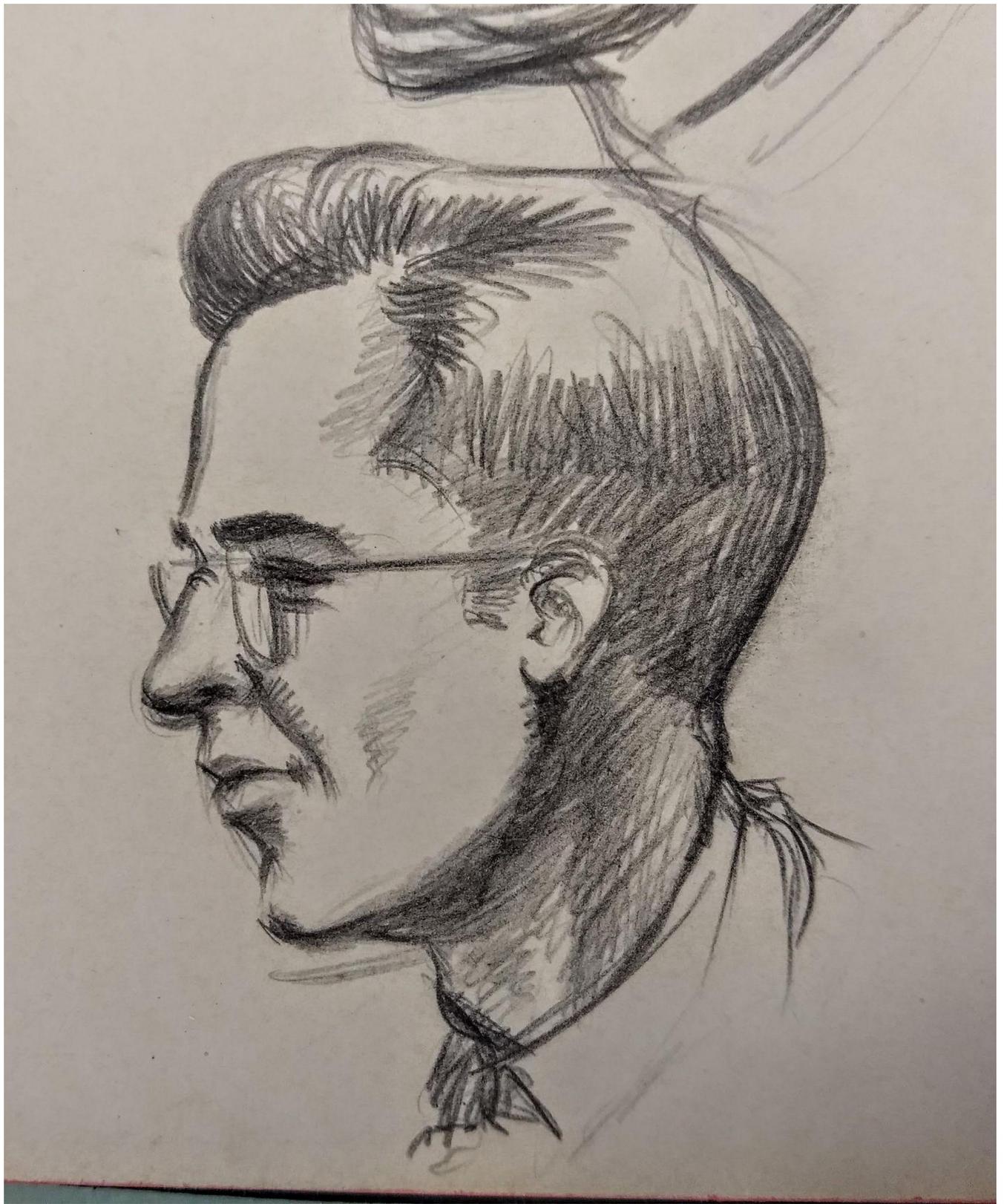








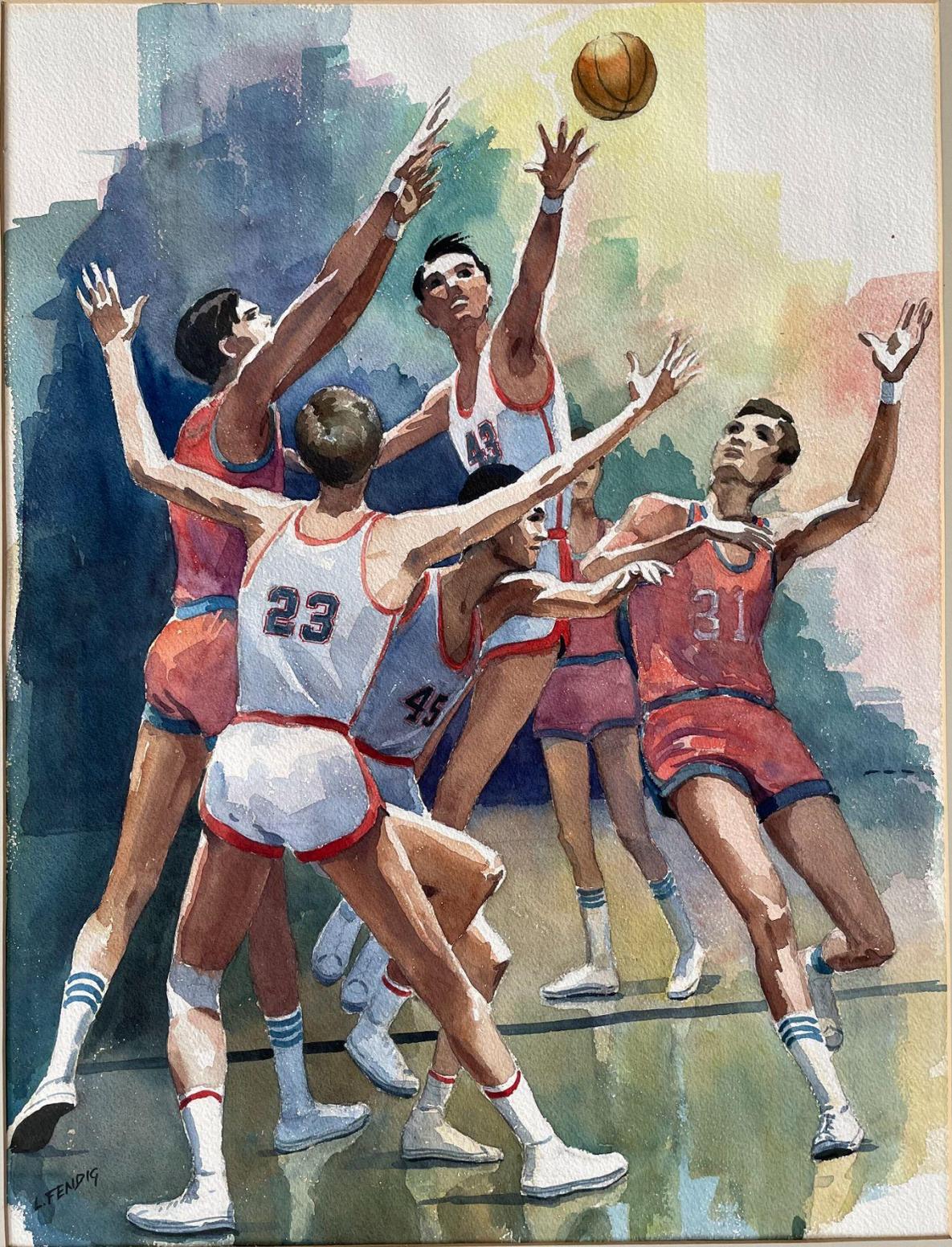






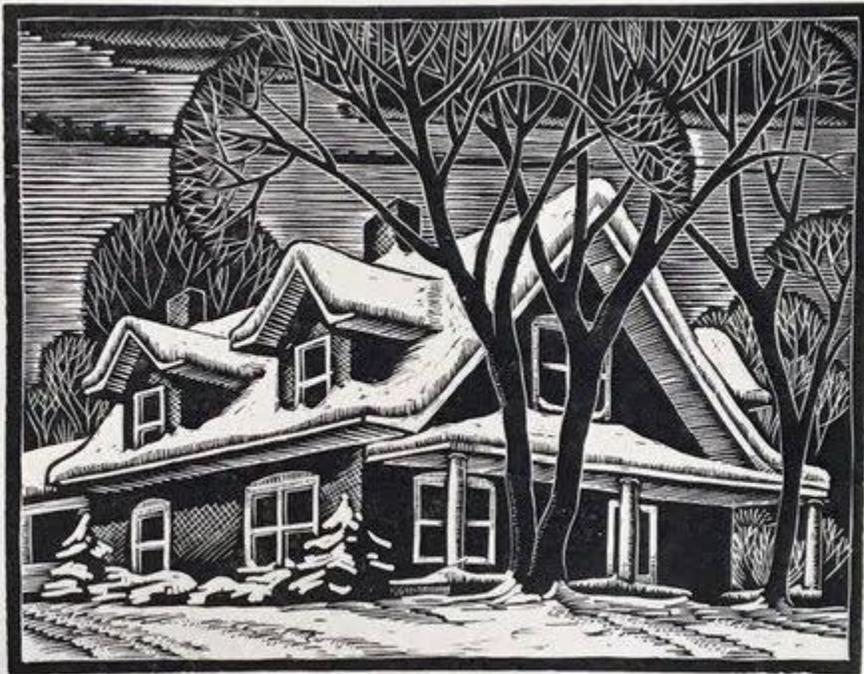












54/100 Fendig Home Lillian Fendig