



On display will be an untitled pastel, painted around 1918 by James Scripps Booth and from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Booth.

## Museum displays works of Saarinen and James Booth

If you're looking for variety in contemporary art, then the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum is the place to visit.

Now through Oct. 30, the museum is hosting an exhibition of works by Eel Saarinen, entitled "Saarinen at Cranbrook: Designs for Cranbrook and Kingswood Schools." The museum also is exhibiting the works of James Scripps Booth through Dec. 11.

The Saarinen exhibition explores the fundamental change which occurred in the architect's designs between the start of the Cranbrook School for boys in 1925 and the completion of the Kingswood School for girls six years later.

The exhibition reflects the Finnish-born architect's shift from European sensibility, exemplified by Finnish National Romanticism, to a more American design philosophy.

Highlight of the exhibition are six works that have never been on public display, "Drawings for Gates No. 1, 2 and 3." They were designed by Saarinen and drafted by his 19-year-old son Eero. The works demonstrate seemingly Nordic references which Saarinen incorporated into details of the school for boys.

There also are two watercolors and a pencil rendering from the collection of Cranbrook Schools, examples of Saarinen's perspective renderings for Kingswood School.

ALSO INCLUDED are two large models of the schools, created for an exhibition, "Design in America: The Cranbrook Vision, 1925-1950," which were displayed at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Suomen Taideteollisuusyhdistys in Helsinki.

Already a leading architect in his native Finland, Saarinen (1873-1950) traveled to the United States in 1923 as the result of his second-place prize entry for the Chicago Tribune Tower competition.

In 1925, he was commissioned by George G. Booth to develop plans for The Cranbrook Educational Community, including Cranbrook School.

With its references to medieval architecture and borrowings from numerous European sources, the school for boys must be viewed within the context of Saarinen's Finnish National Romantic architecture, an architecture which sought to create a national identity through indigenous architectural forms.

Since the English Arts and Crafts Movement was a primary source for both national romanticism and the aesthetics of Booth, the resulting form of Cranbrook School was an important achievement in the careers of both architect and patron.

With the Kingswood School, Saarinen searched for a new architectural vocabulary, one that would express his newly adopted American heritage. He found a new source in the "prairie houses" of Frank Lloyd Wright, an architectural style which was in communion with nature and looked to indigenous American forms.

THE SCHOOL for girls, with its horizontal emphasis, broad hips and overhanging eaves, is nestled into the slope of a hill overlooking Kingswood Lake. Even the columns and light fixtures now take on an organic form, rather than the more medievally inspired details of the school for boys.

Saarinen's change in philosophy also can be seen in the site and floor plans of the two schools. Whereas Cranbrook is a pedestrian-oriented campus with a pedestrian gate and an open courtyard for circulation, Kingswood's main entrance is approached by a grand auto-courtyard with all the spaces connected internally through grand hallways.

The "James Scripps Booth: Artist and Engineer" exhibition is in the museum's deSalle Gallery. It features 25 works that highlight the artistic and automotive design achievements of Booth.

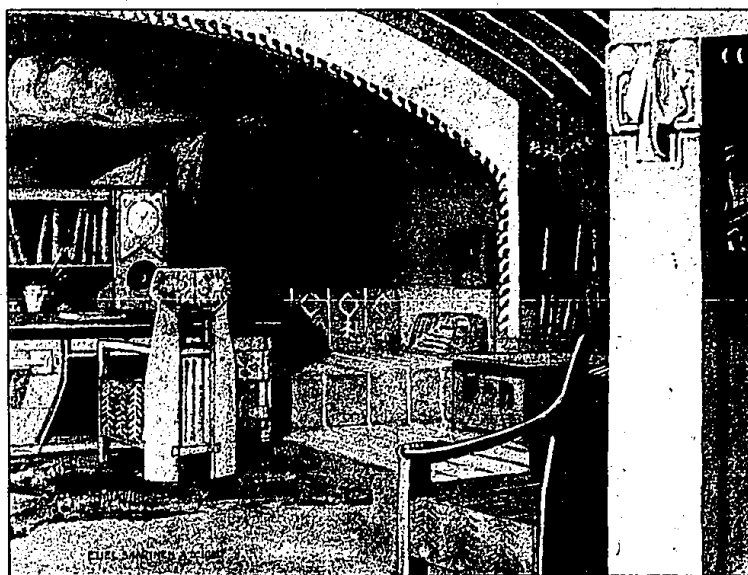
Booth, the eldest son of Cranbrook's founders, George and Ellen Scripps Booth, was a multi-talented man who moved easily from pastel drawings to highly innovative de-

signs for automobiles.

His formal artist training consisted primarily of a brief stay at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris, in addition to time spent with Michigan-born artist Myron Barlow in Etaples, France.

Barlow taught Booth the fundamentals of working with pastels and they quickly became his favorite medium.

Between 1912 and his death in 1954, Booth produced hundreds of pastel landscapes, portraits and figure studies. Constantly experimenting, his working styles included academic, caricature and impressionism.



The "Saarinen in Finland" exhibition includes the artist's Hvittrask 1901.

A SMALL pastel, entitled "Scene at Cannes, France," featured in the exhibit, is a riot of gestural line and color. A large untitled piece of a nude woman swimming illustrates Booth's predilection for an impressionistic style.

Also included in the exhibition are eight works from two of Booth's most important commissions. One of these commissions resulted in an im-

portant series of pastel drawings of the early Detroit News Shelby Street plant. The second commission features a variety of early scenes at Cranbrook.

The Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum is open 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Dozent guided tours are available by advance notice. For tour information, call 645-3312.

Cranbrook is at 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

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