

Joseph Jones, Explaining Exhibit at Artists' Guild, Says He Wants Paintings "To Knock Holes in Walls."

[TRANSCRIPTION; EXCERPTS]

What a disillusioned young man of 23 with a powerful faculty for expressing himself on canvas thinks of this topsy-turvy world may be seen at the Artists' Guild where 23 paintings by Joseph Jones are on exhibition.

No pretty pictures, these, cynical hard-bitten effusions of one influenced deeply by the inequalities of modern social organization and keenly sympathetic with the struggles of the common man. ...

Jones' portraits are pictures of sad-eyed men and women who have labored much, and suffered much. A landscape shows a tree struggling to survive in a crowded city, its barren limbs, whip-like, futilely lashing a sullen sky. ...

"That's what I'm going toward, and what I think I'm beginning to express," Jones says. "I'm not interested in painting pretty pictures to match pink and blue walls. I want to paint things that will knock holes in the walls.

"How anyone with the ability to appreciate what is going on in the world today and the means of expression can go on painting harmless limitations of the Frenchmen of the last century, which is what most contemporary Americans are doing, is beyond me.

"I'm not interested in what they are doing, or in what the Frenchmen did. I know, where they got whatever they have that is worth anything, and I can go there for it myself. For four years I've studied nothing but the old masters. Whatever I have that is good is what I got from them, and what I have added to it from my own experience.

Feels "the Crash is Near."

"I can't help but feel the crash is near. Out of it, I am sure, will come something finer than we have known. Just the thing that should concern the

artist now is the eruption that is in the making. That's the important thing to me. And while there are important things to paint, where could I find time to paint beautiful white horses and shining limousines?"

Source: "What Young Man Thinks About Life Put on Canvas. Joseph Jones, Explaining Exhibit at Artists' Guild, Says He Wants Paintings 'To Knock Holes in Walls,'" *St. Louis Dispatch* (St. Louis, MO), January 29, 1933.