

THE ART OF AIDEN LASSELL RIPLEY

by Stephen O'Brien Jr. and Julie Carlson Wildfeuer

BOSTON, MASS. – Stephen O'Brien Jr. Fine Arts, LLC is pleased to announce *The Art of Aiden Lassell Ripley* by Stephen O'Brien Jr. and Julie Carlson Wildfeuer. Over three years in the making and in conjunction with the Cape Cod Museum of Art, this is the most comprehensive book to date on the artist, chronicling paintings from his early life and work, illustrations and murals, landscapes and cityscapes, scenes of the south and his well-known sporting art. The 230 page book includes over 200 color images. Through the numerous illustrations, *The Art of Aiden Lassell Ripley* documents the artist's progression and growth, from his initial rise as an Impressionist to his accurate and detailed depictions of his outdoor passions that continue to shape sporting art today.

The product of extensive research, this book is the most complete account of the artist's life and work. O'Brien literally retraced the artist's footsteps traveling hundreds of miles from the beautiful lowland quail country of northern Florida to the wild Atlantic salmon rivers of northern New Brunswick. O'Brien spent countless hours examining the work of the artist in order to observe Ripley's artistic evolution and gathered additional research through personal interviews with friends of the artist. The authors read through the extensive biographical data held in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution. They reviewed old exhibition catalogs, past articles and personal letters in order to present a thorough account of Aiden Lassell Ripley's (1896-1969) life.

Born in Wakefield, Massachusetts, Ripley developed an interest in painting at an early age. After returning from service in World War I, he attended the Boston Museum School where he studied with the country's top artists, including Frank W. Benson (1862-1951) and Philip Leslie Hale (1865-1931). While attending the Boston Museum School, Ripley was awarded the prestigious Paige Traveling Fellowship to travel, study and paint in Europe. Upon his return in 1925, he was

elected to the Guild of Boston Artists. His first exhibition at the Guild was in 1926. It focused on the New England countryside and depictions of urban life in Boston and was a smashing success.

The onset of the Great Depression just a few years later severely impacted the sales of these genre scenes. Using his Yankee ingenuity, Ripley found a new market depicting scenes devoted to his passions of hunting, fishing and the outdoors. A successful one-man show of his sporting works at the Guild in 1930 would change the course of the artist's career. While his early work from the 1920s is at the center of the American Impressionist movement, over time his brushstrokes became tighter and he moved toward realism. Aiden Lassell Ripley is widely known within the sporting community as one of America's greatest painters.

Limited to 1000 copies, the trade edition is \$75. A deluxe edition will be available this winter. If you are interested in placing an order or arranging a book signing, please contact Amanda O'Brien at Stephen O'Brien Jr. Fine Arts, LLC, 268 Newbury Street, Boston, MA (617) 536-0536 or amanda@americansportingart.com.