

Around The Art World

with
Linda Margolies

The Art of Charles Ferguson of Farmington — His current show with William Hoppin at the Farmington Village Library

For a great portion of history, the irresistible and eternal qualities of the sea and sky have permeated the artworks of great painters. Whether at Brighton or Malibu, Ipanema or Coney Island, the seaside has always emerged as one of nature's most endearing creations.

Our local natural resource, artist Charles Ferguson of Farmington, has been enchanted with this theme for more than 25 years. Ferguson was educated at Williams College and Trinity College, and received additional training at the prestigious Art Students League in New York City. There, he studied under the distinguished artist and teacher, Frank Vincent DuMond, a member of the Old Lyme Impressionist group.

Between 1949 and 1966, Ferguson used his considerable talents teaching at several well-known schools — among them The Hill School, Loomis-Chaffee and Trinity College. In the Farmington Valley, however, Ferguson is well known as the director of the New Britain Museum of American Art. For almost 20 years, he has guided the museum in a direction of progress and dynamic change in order to offer our residents a truly unique viewing experience in American art.

Currently, at the Farmington Village Library, Ferguson displays a memorable group of his paintings and etchings for our perusal. He is showing his work in conjunction with that of artist William Hoppin.

Ferguson captures the gaiety of a seashore scene in such works as "Flood Tide, the Race" and "Asters and Chicory." He transmits a superb empathy with the grace and awe evoked by nature's forms.

A highlight of the show is the painting "Channel Inlet." Here, Ferguson captures a quiet stretch of sea



"Monarch Migration" by Charles Ferguson.

various elements of color, form and composition to their best advantage.

Among the most successful pieces in the show are those paintings executed while on a trip to Iceland last year. "Icelandic Valley," for example, presents this unique and exotic land in all of its purity and grandeur. Ferguson, who concentrates on form and shadow, spots an angler amid stream, his flywheel awaiting imminent success with a bass or trout (or whatever genus inhabits Icelandic waters).

The piece is majestic in its delicacy and attention to

detail, and it successfully transmits to the viewer the shrouded mystery and aura of this unfamiliar terrain.

Showing with Ferguson is well-known Hartford attorney William Hoppin.

Hoppin has been working with pen and ink and watercolor for more than 30 years. His work consists of some highly laudable pen and ink sketches of places he has visited in Europe, China and South America.

The exhibition may be viewed daily from noon to 5 p.m. at the Village Library, located at 71 Main St., Farmington. Call 677-1529 for more information