

# Gerrit Hondius



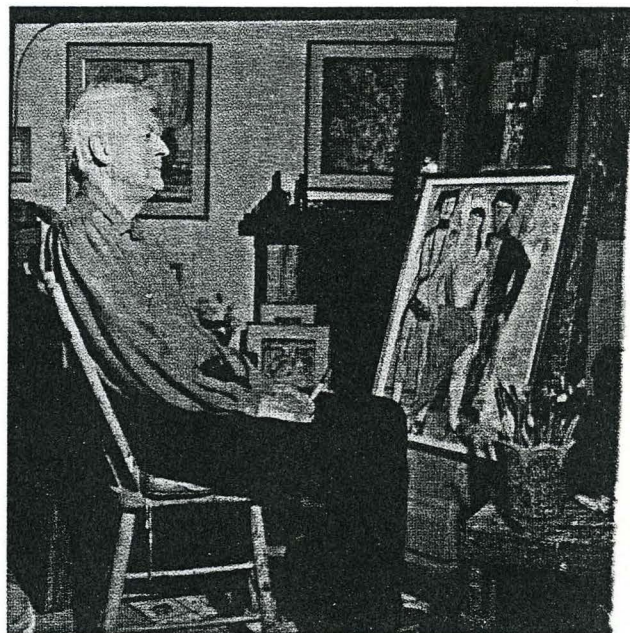
Gerrit Hondius was born in Kampen, Holland, July 4th, 1891. His father was Jan Hondius, who came from a long line of painters, ministers and scholars. In 1591, Judocus Hondius and Mercator started an Atlas of the world which took 50 years to complete, and consisted of 180 hand colored copper engravings. Mercator, who made nine of these died around 1600. Judocus continued the work, and after his death his son Hendricus and his son-in-law Jansonius finished the Atlas. They also made many globes and single maps. Some of the editions of the Atlas are in Museums throughout the world. Among the painters in this renown family, probably the most outstanding was the 17th century Abraham Hondius who specialized in large hunting scenes.

Mr. Hondius mother was Petronella Fabritius, whose ancestors were Karel and Barent Fabritius, the pupils of Rembrandt. Karel, who lived in Delft was considered Rembrandt's most gifted pupil. Unfortunately he died before he was forty years of age, from an explosion of a ship filled with gunpowder in the harbor of Delft. He was the teacher of Vermeer, and he was the first painter who experimented with the light grey background, which Vermeer developed, and which was in contrast with the deep somber backgrounds of Rembrandt. A fine example of this is the famous "GOLD FINCH" by Fabritius which is in the Mauritz Huis in the Hague.

Gerrit Hondius began painting at an early age. He studied at the Royal Academy in the Hague, and in the studio of Krabbé, in Laren, Holland. He came to America during the first world war and studied with Max Weber in the Art Students League. Then he went to Europe twice, to study in Paris and Italy.

Mr. Hondius has had more than forty-five one man shows, numerous group shows and travelling shows, in America and in Europe. He is represented in many museums, universities and private collections.

Paula Hondius the wife of Gerrit Hondius is a pianist. As a child she was taken to Europe to study with the famous teachers of Vienna and Berlin. But overwork interrupted her concert career and for a



long time she had to give up playing. However; she was able to reconstruct her method of playing. As a result she has taught to a great extent and was able to rehabilitate many pianists who suffered from overwork or faulty methods. She is renowned for her playing, especially chamber music.

The paintings of Gerrit stem, first from the Dutch paintings of the Hague school, and developed into a style reminiscent of the French and German expressionism. He is interested in humanity, and feels that the study of color is the greatest contribution to painting in the 20th century. He has never experimented with non-objective art.

In summer months Paula and Gerrit Hondius reside in Provincetown in a beautiful cottage. This cottage is over 200 years old and was floated down to its present location from the point of the beach. It is one of the most picturesque houses in the area. It has a large circular wine cellar and quaint old New England architectural innovations.

