



PRESS RELEASE

From: Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH)
To: All Media. For immediate release.
RE: DeRome Expert at PG Museum of Natural History
Date/Time: July 16, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Esther Trosow, (831) 648-5716, ext 17 or archivist@pgmuseum.org

Albert DeRome Expert Walter Nelson-Rees to Give Talk at PGMNH



Point Pinos Lighthouse, March 1933, oil on canvas laid on board. Image from Nelson-Rees' Albert Thomas DeRome: Being a Story of His Life and a Picture Diary of His Oils & Watercolors.

Art historian Dr. Walter Nelson-Rees will give a free lecture about celebrated painter Albert DeRome at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History on July 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Nelson-Rees wrote the authoritative work on the California artist that was published in 1988, and curated an exhibit of the artist's work at the Museum that same year.

Albert DeRome's luminous oil painting of a Pacific Grove sand dune is the centerpiece of a new permanent DeRome exhibit that includes

biographical material, as well as photographic reproductions of 22 paintings—most of landscape subjects within Monterey County. The exhibit was designed by local artist, Snick Farkas, and Museum Archivist, Esther Trosow, and draws largely from the 1988 Nelson-Rees book. Many of the Museum's diorama cases feature backdrops painted by DeRome, and during WWII, he worked with Museum staff on a camouflage project with the Army at Fort Ord.

Albert Thomas DeRome (1885-1959) was a California native who studied art at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art in San Francisco in the early 1900s. His work was mostly impressionistic interpretations of Western landscapes, changing from small watercolors early in his career to oils in the middle and later years. DeRome was injured in a serious car accident in 1931, and while the resulting insurance annuity assured his living expenses, it came with a stipulation that he could not sell his paintings. Following his auto accident, DeRome recuperated on the Monterey Peninsula, and used the area's vistas for artistic inspiration. He counted many notable artists in his circle—including his mentor, William Keith, as well as Will Sparks, Percy Gray, Frank H. Meyers, and Arthur H. Gilbert—and gifted many of his works to friends. He showed his work as an amateur artist in venues that included the Monterey County Fair. DeRome remained in Pacific Grove until the end of his life, and is inurned in the city's El Carmelo Cemetery.

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History is located at Forest & Central avenues, and is open free to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Call (831) 648-5716 for Museum information, or pgmuseum@mbay.net / www.pgmuseum.org