

Mahonri Young Junior: His Young Life and Artwork

Introduction

Mahonri Young Junior: His Young Life and Artwork is a comprehensive exploration of the life, work, and legacy of one of the most significant American artists of the 20th century. Born into a prominent Utah family, Young's artistic journey took him from the bustling streets of New York City to the avant-garde circles of Paris and back to his home state, where he left an indelible mark on Utah's cultural landscape.

Young's early life and education laid the foundation for his artistic career. Born in Salt Lake City in 1877, he was the grandson of Brigham Young, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Young's family moved to New York City when he

was a young boy, and he began his formal art training at the Art Students League. There, he studied under John Quincy Adams Ward, a leading sculptor of the time.

Young's association with the Ashcan School and American Realism had a profound impact on his artistic style. The Ashcan School was a group of artists who rejected the idealized and romanticized art of the past, instead choosing to depict the gritty realities of everyday life in urban America. Young's paintings and sculptures of working-class subjects, such as street vendors and prize fighters, captured the spirit of this movement.

Young's travels to Europe exposed him to the latest trends in modern art. He was particularly influenced by Post-Impressionism and Cubism, which he incorporated into his own work. Young's experimentation with abstraction and his exploration

of African art further demonstrated his willingness to push artistic boundaries.

Young's participation in the Armory Show of 1913 was a turning point in his career. The Armory Show was a groundbreaking exhibition that introduced American audiences to European modernism. Young's work was well-received, and he gained recognition as a major artist.

Throughout his career, Young received numerous commissions for public monuments and sculptures. His most famous works include the Sea Gull Monument in Salt Lake City and the This is the Place Monument in Ogden, Utah. Young's public art played a significant role in shaping the cultural identity of Utah and the American West.

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Mahonri Young Junior: His Young Life and Artwork is a richly illustrated volume that provides a comprehensive overview of Young's life and work. The book features over 200 images of Young's paintings, sculptures, drawings, and prints, as well as archival photographs and documents. The book also includes

essays by leading scholars on Young's life and art, offering new insights into his creative process and his lasting legacy.

Chapter 1: Early Life and Childhood

Mahonri Young Junior's Birth and Family

Mahonri Young Junior was born on August 9, 1877, in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. He was the fifth of nine children born to Brigham Young, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and his wife, Ann Eliza Webb Dee. Young's father was a prominent religious and political leader, and his mother was a writer and poet.

Young's childhood was spent in a large and lively household. He had four brothers and four sisters, and he was surrounded by extended family and friends. Young's father was a strict disciplinarian, but he also encouraged his children to be creative and independent. Young's mother was a loving and supportive parent, and she played a significant role in his early education.

Young's family was deeply involved in the LDS Church, and Young was raised in a devout religious environment. He attended church regularly and participated in many church activities. Young's religious upbringing had a profound impact on his life and work.

In 1884, when Young was seven years old, his family moved to New York City. Young's father had been called to serve as the church's president in the Eastern States Mission. The move to New York City was a major change for Young, but he quickly adapted to his new surroundings.

Young attended school in New York City and began to develop his artistic talents. He took drawing and painting classes and spent many hours sketching in the city's museums and galleries. Young's early art teachers recognized his talent and encouraged him to pursue a career in art.

Chapter 1: Early Life and Childhood

Young's Early Education and Artistic Influences

Mahonri Young Junior was born into a prominent Utah family on October 9, 1877, in Salt Lake City. His father, Mahonri Moriancumer Young, was a prominent Mormon leader and businessman, and his mother, Agnes Coolbrith Young, was a writer and poet. Young's early life was geprägt by the values of hard work, education, and service that were instilled in him by his parents.

Young's early education took place at home, where he was tutored by his mother and other family members. He showed an early interest in art and began drawing and painting at a young age. In 1889, when Young was 12 years old, his family moved to New York City. There, he attended the Friends Seminary, a Quaker school, where he continued to develop his artistic skills.

In 1895, Young enrolled at the Art Students League, one of the leading art schools in the United States. There, he studied under John Quincy Adams Ward, a prominent sculptor who had studied with Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux and Antoine-Louis Barye. Ward was a strong advocate for realism in sculpture, and he encouraged Young to develop his own unique style.

During his time at the Art Students League, Young also came into contact with other artists who would have a significant influence on his work, including Robert Henri, William Merritt Chase, and George Bellows. These artists were part of the Ashcan School, a group of American artists who rejected the idealized and romanticized art of the past, instead choosing to depict the gritty realities of everyday life in urban America.

Young's early education and artistic influences laid the foundation for his successful career as an artist. He developed a strong foundation in drawing and painting, and he learned the importance of realism and

observation. He was also exposed to the latest trends in modern art, which would influence his work throughout his career.

Chapter 1: Early Life and Childhood

The Young Family's Move to New York City

In 1880, when Mahonri Young Junior was three years old, his family moved from Salt Lake City to New York City. The move was prompted by Young's father, Brigham Young Jr., who had been called to serve as a counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Young family settled in a brownstone house on East 57th Street in Manhattan. The neighborhood was home to many prominent families, and the Youngs quickly became part of New York City's social elite.

Young's early years in New York City were filled with cultural and educational opportunities. He attended private schools and studied art at the Art Students League. He also spent time exploring the city's museums and galleries.

New York City had a profound impact on Young's artistic development. He was exposed to a wide range of artistic styles and influences, which helped him to develop his own unique voice as an artist.

Young's family played a supportive role in his artistic pursuits. His father was a talented amateur artist, and his mother encouraged him to follow his dreams. Young's siblings also provided him with encouragement and support.

The Young family's move to New York City was a turning point in Mahonri Young Junior's life. It was in New York City that he received the education and training that would allow him to become one of the most significant American artists of the 20th century.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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