

*Additional items donated in 2023*



Study for a mural on Masonite panel for the Paw Paw, Michigan junior high school, circa 1934.

According to the May 25, 1934 Commercial Record, "The mural is one of the finest things Mr. Hoerman has done and shows in the foreground the mighty forests of Michigan, its lakes and rolling country, its vineyards and orchards and rich farms, its mighty highways like ribbons against the green and its railroads, all leading to the splendid city in the background. A dream city, typical of the cities of Michigan, made powerful and beautiful by the products of her fertile countryside."



Prints by Carl Hoerman:

*Eucalyptus*  
(left)

*Christmas Woods*  
(right)



Gifts of Ron and Bonnie Wilkins

## SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS **HISTORY** CENTER

*Carl Hoerman paintings  
find new homes in 2023*



*October Day on Lake Kalamazoo* (1929)



*Autumn Symphony* (1929)

For more than 90 years, these Carl Hoerman masterpieces have delighted lovers of art visiting the bank on Mason Street in Saugatuck.

With the closure of the bank once known as Fruit Growers State Bank in 2023, a question loomed large: what would happen to the beloved art in the lobby?

After a multiyear effort working with Huntington Bank to guarantee the Carl Hoerman paintings at their Saugatuck branch remain on public view in our community, the paintings have found new homes! As of this January, the two 1929 paintings are now at the History Center in Douglas.

Huntington Bank donated two additional Carl Hoerman paintings dated 1930 to the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. These paintings will also be on view to the public in their Education Hallway during open hours, Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm.

# Fruit Grovers Bank has Two Fine Paintings

Displayed on the walls of the Fruit Grovers State Bank are two fine paintings by Carl Hoerman, local artist.

On the south wall is "October day on Lake Kalamazoo," painted from the scenic shoreline of the Gerber (Spencer) estate in Douglas looking across towards Saugatuck, showing in the foreground the colorful rainfall of fall in tree and bush, with the distant wood-clad dunes in the hazy blue-green shadows of an afternoon sun with Saugatuck's landmark—the Pavilion—near the center. On the east wall in the customers' parlor hangs "Autumn Symphony," which was painted near the end of the Skylin Drive on the Felt estate with the glistening dune near Gibson rising to the north. One of the picturesque old pines nearby is introduced in the foreground with its somber green contrast to the vivid coloration of advanced autumn. Lovers of art should drop into the bank and view these paintings.

Commercial Record newspaper article from November 8, 1929

**Carl Hoerman** (1885-1955), is arguably Saugatuck's most famous artist. The German émigré architect and painter left an impressive artistic legacy here and across the country. Born in Babenhausen, Germany, he immigrated to Chicago in 1904, opening his own architecture office in 1909, then moving to Saugatuck in 1920.

He and his wife Christina traveled to the desert in the American Southwest in for the first time in 1927. They went on to live and work in Saugatuck as well as Riverside, California.



Hoerman was an eclectic architect and designer in the Arts and Crafts tradition with numerous projects in Saugatuck as well as in the California desert. Best known for his landscape paintings, Hoerman was equally at home painting the desert scenes of the American Southwest and Grand Canyon as the Lake Michigan dunescapes that speak to the sense of place along Saugatuck's "Art Coast" then and now.

**Christiana (Ackerman) Hoerman** (1887-1986), Carl Hoerman's wife, Christiana, began painting in 1925 when she studied at Ox-Bow with Frederick Fursman and Albert Krehbiel. She painted landscapes but is best known for her still-life paintings of flowers. Examples of her artwork are also on view from the SDHC's permanent collection.



After Carl Hoerman's death in 1955, Christiana continued to operate the Art Gallery as she had for many years. Christiana Hoerman was also active in community organizations including the Saugatuck Women's Club and Community Hospital.

