

= Ethel Sands =

Ethel Sands ( 6 July 1873 ? 19 March 1962 ) was an American @-@ born artist and hostess who lived in England from her early childhood . She studied art in Paris for several years under Eugène Carrière , and it was there that she met Anna Hope Hudson ( Nan ) , her life partner . Her works were influenced by the artist Edouard Vuillard and Walter Sickert , and were generally of still lifes and interior scenes , many of which are of Château d 'Auppegard that she shared with Hudson in France . Sands was a Fitzroy Street Group and London Group member . Her works are in the collections of museums , the National Portrait Gallery , London and public collections . During both world wars , she nursed soldiers ; she established a hospital in France in World War I. In 1916 she was made a citizen of England .

Due to her family 's wealth she collected art and was a patron , but she is best known as a hostess for the cultural elite in her homes in England and Hudson 's house in France . Her friends included Henry James , Virginia Woolf , Roger Fry , Augustus John and many other writers and artists of her day . She continued to entertain into the 1950s when she was in her late 70s and 80s .

= = Early life = =

Ethel Sands was born on 6 July 1873 in Newport , Rhode Island , the first child of Mary Morton Hartpence and Mahlon Sands , who married in 1872 . Mahlon Sands was secretary of the American Free Trade League , who in 1870 advocated for civil service reform and free trade . He was partner of his deceased father 's pharmaceutical importing firm , A.B. Sands and Company . Ethel had two younger brothers , Mahlong Alan and Morton Harcourt Sands , who were respectively 5 and 11 years younger than Ethel .

In 1874 the family left the United States for England , intending to only visit the country . However , Mahlon Sands and his family stayed in England and travelled among European countries . They also visited the United States annually and were there for an extended visit from 1877 to 1879 . They kept their house in Newport , Rhode Island throughout this time .

The wealthy Sands circulated amongst London society , including writer and statesman John Morley , politician William Ewart Gladstone , writer Henry James , artist John Singer Sargent , the Rothschild family , and Henry Graham White . Mahlon 's sister , Katherine , was married to journalist and newspaper editor Edwin Lawrence Godkin . They were part of Edward VII , then Prince of Wales ' , social circle . John Singer Sargent painted the portrait of her mother 's portrait , who was considered " a famous society beauty of her day . " Mary Sands was " much admired " by writer Henry James , who called her " that gracious lady " and based his heroic character " Madame de Mauves " on her .

Ethel Sands was raised in a respectable upper @-@ class household in which her parents were " happily married " . While her father was considered handsome and her mother beautiful , Anthony Powell states that some people wrote in their diaries and letters that she was plain . In her later years , Powell met her and said that " so great was her elegance , charm , capacity to be amusing in a no @-@ nonsense manner , that I could well believed her to be good @-@ looking in her youth .

Her father had ridden horseback through Hyde Park , was thrown from the horse and died an accidental death in 1888 . His widow , Mary Sands , raised Ethel and her brothers until her death on 28 July 1896 .

= = Art = =

= = = Education = = =

Encouraged by artist John Singer Sargent , Sands studied painting in Paris at the Académie Carrière under Eugène Carrière for several years , beginning in 1894 . There she met fellow student Nan Hudson , born Anna Hope Hudson in the United States , who became her life partner . During

this time , Sands became the guardian of her two younger brothers following her mother 's death in 1896 .

= = = Painting = = =

Sands painted still lifes and interior settings . Tate suggests that was inspired by Edouard Vuillard 's dry brush technique , color palette and depiction of " intimate " scenes . Her first exhibition was at Salon d 'Automne in Paris in 1904 .

In 1907 , at Walter Sickert 's invitation , she became a member and exhibited paintings she made at the Fitzroy Street Group . She also purchased the works of other artists . She was one of the artists that founded the London Group . According to author Kate Deepwell , her works , and those of Vanessa Bell and other women , were evaluated differently at that time than those made by men : The best critique of woman 's work at the time would be that they had individuality , but they would not have been considered innovative , modern works like those made by men .

In Paris in 1911 she had her first show dedicated to her works . Hudson and Sands had a show at Carfax Gallery in 1912 . The next year she was part of the " English Post @-@ Impressionists , Cubists and Others " show in Brighton . Her works were exhibited at Goupil Gallery , and in 1922 she had her initial solo show . She also exhibited often at the Women 's International Art Club and the New English Art Club .

Hudson purchased Château d 'Auppegard near Dieppe , France in 1920 , which was the subject of several of Sand 's paintings . Some of the interior paintings are A Spare Room , Château d 'Auppegard and Double Doors , Château d 'Auppegard . Other examples are the landscape Auppegard Church from Château , France and one of her partner , Nan Hudson Playing Patience at Auppegard . Her works are in the collections of Tate museum Government Art Collection , and Fitzwilliam Museum .

= = Socialite and patron = =

Like Lady Sibyl Colefax and Lady Ottoline Morrell , Sands entertained artists and writers with the intention to nurture and discuss ideas relevant to their careers . Affiliated with the Bloomsbury Group , she was most well known as " one of the leading artist hostesses of her time , " her lavish affairs were financially possible due to the significant wealth she inherited from her parents . She was mainly at the Oxford , Newington house until 1920 , but when in England she also entertained at her London Lowndes Street house , and between 1913 and 1937 at 15 Vale , Chelsea , London house , where she lived near her mother 's friend , Henry James . Notable artists Augustus John and Walter Sickert . Henry James , Virginia Woolf , Roger Fry and Arnold Bennett were among the writers of the " cultural elite " who visited her . Her friends included artist Jacques @-@ Émile Blanche , writer Edith Wharton , poet William Butler Yeats , essayist and critic Logan Pearsall Smith and novelist Howard Overing Sturgis .

Lytton Strachey ( a founder of the Bloomsbury Group } met at Sand 's house and her uncle , Edwin Lawrence Godkin wrote of his upcoming visit to Sand 's house in Oxfordshire , " There one fortnight , and then back to " holy wars , " patriotism , and buncombe ... "

She was a patron and collector of works by other contemporary artists . For instance , she commissioned Boris Anrep , a Russian immigrant , to create mosaics and murals in her Vale , Chelsea house . Sands continued to entertain into the 1950s with her friends , including Duncan Grant and Desmond MacCarthy , until he died in 1952 .

She was described as a " plain woman of immense charm , cultivation and perception , and a painter of considerable talent " in the Dictionary of Real People and Places in Fiction . It was suggested there that Henry James modelled the character Nanda in The Awkward Age after Sands .

= = World wars = =

Sands tended to soldiers who had been injured in France during World War I , having established a hospital for soldiers near Dieppe with Hudson . It was forced to close down , and they continued their nursing efforts in both France and England . Sands was then in Britain working as a forewoman in a factory that made overalls . In 1916 she became a British citizenship . During World War II , Sands served as a nurse . The house in Chelsea , London was destroyed during The Blitz by a parachute mine , and the house in France was broken into and its contents were stolen or destroyed . The two war @-@ time events resulted in the loss of most of Sands and Hudson 's works .

= = Personal life = =

Sands and Hudson divided their time between England and France to accommodate their lifestyle preferences . Hudson enjoyed living a relatively quiet life in France and Sands liked the London and Oxford social life .

Sands entertained people within and outside of the cultural elite throughout her life . When her Hudson 's health began to fail , Sands nursed her until she died in 1957 . Sand continued to entertain after Hudson 's death . Her date of death was 19 March 1962 .

Friend Virginia Woolf wrote a sketch based upon her called " The Lady in the Looking Glass , " subtitled " A Reflection , " about a time that she saw her come " in from the garden and not reading her letters . " The mirror symbolised the way in which art is used to take a snapshot in time , but can also cut .

Wendy Baron , an author and art historian , wrote a biography about Sands , partly based upon the letters that Sands exchanged with Hudson and others . Tate Archives now holds the correspondence .

She was made Dame Ethel Sands in 1920 .

= = Works = =

Among the works that survived World War II plunders and bombings are :