

Central Park Bridge



Central Park Bridge painted in 1946 was not exhibited at the Cape Ann Museum Exhibition in 2009 which concentrated on her landscapes of Cape Ann.

MacRae's parents returned to New York in 1888. Her early schooling was at the Brearley School for Girls in New York City and later at the Ingleside School, New Milford in Connecticut. It is not known why or when she became interested in art or made the decision to study at the Art Students' League.

MacRae moved back to her parent's home when her husband left her and rented a studio at 12 West 69th Street which she kept on following her marriage to Homer Swift for most of her life daily walking across Central Park from her new home on the east side.

In *Central Park Bridge* MacRae has employed a subdued palette and has focused on the shape of the granite wall of the bridge, the water and the path following the curve of the bank in the foreground under the bridge and beyond applying the paint sparingly to achieve the reflections of the trees, rocks and boys in the water.

MacRae was given a licence to set up her easel on the grass in Central Park at a time when it was forbidden to walk on the grass and she painted several scenes including *Central Park Bridge* in the 1940's.

*Exhibited: 1949 – National Academy; 1950 – Pen and Brush Club - first prize;
1950 – National Arts Club Non Members; 1953 – Knickerbocker Artists;
1955 – American Artists Professional League; 1959 – Allied Artists of America;
1968 – Pen and Brush; 1969 – Brearley School.*

Central Park Bridge
Oil on board Signed Framed
18 x 26 inches
Emma Fordyce MacRae 1887 - 1974