

August in New England



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Like many artists MacRae abandoned the New York heat for the cool of Gloucester in New England in the summer and until 1951 successfully painted the Cape Ann landscape with its coves, beaches and harbors. In 1925 she inherited Atlantic Highlands in Gloucester, MA from her father and Homer Swift, her husband, arranged for a studio to be built onto the house and planted flowers in the garden for her to paint.

One day in 1941 MacRae stretched open weave canvas over a board, applied gesso to the canvas, and incorporated the texture of the fabric into her work *August in New England*. For this composition MacRae ignored the vista of the open sea preferring to include Riverdale on the land opposite the beach with the water in between reflecting the church, houses, boats and trees. *August in New England* is a wonderful example of Emma's later distinctive painting style and her method of manipulating color to create impressionistic reflections in the water. In this landscape *August in New England* MacRae used a brick red blocked in under the different greens of the trees below and around the houses on the opposite shore and again in the reflection in the sea giving depth to the composition. She left the surface of her work unvarnished, further playing up its decorative qualities.

Exhibited:

- 1945 – 1946 Pepsi Cola second exhibit
- 1947 – North Shore Arts Association
- 1948 – Pen and Brush
- 1949 – National Academy
- 2008 – Cape Ann Museum

August in New England
Oil and pencil on canvas on board Signed Framed
25" x 30"
Emma Fordyce MacRae 1887 – 1974

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