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669 CANYON ROAD

SANTA FE, NM 87501

505.992.2882

www.themattthewsgallery.com



Branko Porobic

Branko Porobic (1909-2004) was born in the port town of Herceg Novi, Dalmatia (Croatia). He was best known for his paintings of shipyards. From the tangle of masts, nets and lines, the artist drew inspiration for his expressive geometric compositions.

Porobic showed early talent in painting. His nautical scene, *Port of Herceg Novi* done when he was barely twenty, was accepted by the Salon d'Automne.

His first career was as a teacher of music and philosophy. After completing classical studies, he taught philosophy at the high school level. He was also a professor at the School of Music Belgrade and the choral director and conductor of an orchestra in Belgrade.

Later, Porobic studied in Venice, Paris and Rome at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Porobic's artwork merited warm acclaim across the world. Some excerpted reviews from his one-man shows in Belgrade, Paris, London, Rome and New York:

He paints life that goes down to the sea in ships. Dawn and dusk when the light plays tricks with the forest of masts and drooping sails, are his favorite hour for painting. Hence the sailing vessels that crowd his harbors have a ghostly look... his style is appropriately delicate, his skeletal ships have a poetic dimension.

Porobic paints with an unparalleled dynamism, creating a spontaneous harmony of color... Like a piece of music whose notes are measured and melodic his chromatic harmonies are rhythmically accented... At such times the artist allows himself still greater scope he breaks the confines of the expressionistic impressionism into a more abstract expressionism. -Artisti D'Oggi, Rome, 1957

...He sketches a great maze of masts and nets and sharp or round-angled prows rocking over a monochromed surface making constant patterns of movement. -Art News, New York, 1957

He is a fine free talent brought into expressive warmth in oils of bright and moving palette. -Mirror, New York, 1957

His paintings embody the most vivid expressions and seem to be like sculptures with a palette. -L'Italia, Chicago, 1957

Porobic gets musical forms into his canvases. In some of these he has attempted a sort of fugue arrangement. In such paintings he achieves a flowing design and a symphonic relation of colors using three four or five dominant hues and, still, gaining a surprising virtuosity.

Porobic exhibited at many prestigious salons including: the Salon d'Automne and the Salon de Printemps in Belgrade, the Grand Salon in Paris, the Salon des Artistes Francias, the Salon Populiste, the Salon des Beaux Arts, La Nationale, the Salon de la Jeune Peinture, the Groupe des

Onze du Salon de Jeune Peinture, the International Exhibition of Artists Resident in Rome, 1956, First International Prize.

He won several honorable mentions and prizes, including the Prize Paestum for 1956.

See a [painting](#) by Branko Porobic in our collection.

*Adapted from a book by Aurelio T. Prete