

LIMITED FALL EXHIBITION



THE BENEDICT GALLERY:  
REVISITING HULL-HOUSE'S  
ARTS EDUCATORS

## ABOUT

# ENELLA BENEDICT (1858-1942)

Born in Lake Forest, IL in 1858, Enella was the daughter of Amzi Benedict, co-founder and mayor of Lake Forest. She attended Lake Forest University, where she studied painting and drawing. She went on to study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as in New York and in Paris. She felt quite isolated in France -as a woman, she was often excluded from the arts community, which was dominated by men. She also received less instruction and paid higher tuition during that time.

The majority of Benedict's work was rooted in the Realist and Impressionist styles. She depicted the people around her, including Hull-House Residents, and portrayed natural scenes within her many seascapes and landscapes. She worked mostly with oil and watercolors.



Benedict met Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in 1889 very soon after they had arrived in Chicago. Living in the same boarding house for a time, they became fast friends, bonding over literature, philosophy, and spirituality. In 1893, Benedict became a Hull-House Resident and served as founder and director of the Hull-House Art School, where she worked for over 40 years. She died in 1942, in Richmond, Virginia and is buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

Learn more about Enella Benedict on the museum's blog,  
*From the Desk of Jane Addams.*



1893-1963

# THE HULL-HOUSE ART SCHOOL



The Art School taught clay modeling, drawing, painting, and lithography classes for \$0.15 a day. Prices for classes were kept low to allow for accessibility to the community. Benedict was never paid for the classes she taught at the Hull-House Art School. Her income came from the morning classes she taught at the School of the Art Institute; she then taught afternoon classes at Hull-House for free. She believed that art should be accessible to everyone and should not be considered a luxury. She worked by the principle that the arts can facilitate and enable social change and growth.

The Hull-House Art School was treated as an institution that would foster that growth, cultivating a community of artists who could work together, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. During the Great Depression, she advocated for keeping the Art School open, and she brought artist and mapmaker Emily Edwards to Chicago from Mexico to head the art department and help expand the program's workshops.

Benedict's work at the Art Institute allowed her to become a bridge between the two institutions – Art Institute instructors taught classes at Hull-House, and Benedict helped Hull-House artists become students of and display their work at the Art Institute. She managed the artist-in-residence program at Hull-House, which included Norah Hamilton, Emily Edwards, Leon Garland, Morris Topchevsky, Sadie Ellis, and Michael Gamboney. Benedict's own work was displayed at the Art Institute, and she had multiple pieces exhibited at the 1893 World's Fair in the Palace of Fine Arts, the Illinois Building, and the Women's Building.

# THE BENEDICT GALLERY

## REVISITING HULL-HOUSE'S ARTS EDUCATORS



### EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION:

Ross Stanton Jordan  
Kate Bass  
Nadia Maragha  
Stefán Cuevas-Caizaguano  
Elizabeth McCarthy

In 1938, the Benedict Gallery was opened at Hull-House as a permanent retrospective of Enella Benedict's work. The gallery, like most of the Hull-House Settlement complex, was demolished in 1963 to make way for the construction of the University of Illinois Chicago campus. This exhibition seeks to honor the legacy of Benedict's work at Hull-House and the enduring beauty of her art by revisiting the creation of a space dedicated to her within the Settlement's walls and showcasing her work once more.

### ABOUT THE MUSEUM

#### Admission

The suggested donation to visit the museum during regular hours is \$5 per person.

Admission for University of Illinois faculty, staff, and students is free.

#### Hours

Tuesday — Friday: 9:10am - 4:50pm

Monday, Saturday, and Sunday: CLOSED

#### Contact Us

(312) 413-5353 | jahh@uic.edu

800 S. Halsted Street (M/C 051)

Chicago, IL 60607-7017

Twitter @JAHHM

Insta @jahhm1889

Facebook:

facebook.com/hullhousemuseum

#### Website

hullhousemuseum.org



**JANE ADDAMS  
HULL-HOUSE MUSEUM**