Charles (Carlos) Sergison Marega

1871 - March 24 1939

Sculptor; Instructor, VSDAA
B.C. Society of Fine Arts (President 1917-18)
B.C. Art League (Organizing Committee 1920)
Vancouver Exhibition
Palette and Chisel Club (President)
Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver (Member 1931)

Charles Marega was one of Vancouver's most noted sculptors. The legacy of his work remains for our viewing pleasure throughout Vancouver - from the lions of the Lions Gate Bridge to Captains Burrard and Vancouver on the Burrard Bridge. Other public works include the Harding Memorial in Stanley Park, the King George memorial fountain at the Art Gallery, the heroic bronze statue of Captain Vancouver at Vancouver City Hall (with a duplicate in London, England), the Joe Fortes Memorial at English Bay, and the large bust of Oppenheimer on Beach Avenue at the entrance to Stanley Park across from the Parks Board offices.

He was born Carlos Marega in Lucinico, Trieste, Italy, in 1871, and died in Vancouver in March 1939. He arrived in Vancouver in 1910 after artistic training in Trieste and Vienna and travels in Europe and South Africa.
Marega entered sculptures into B.C. Society of Fine Arts (BCSFA) annual exhibitions, including the 1917 show, where he also provided a sculpture by Prof. Novello of Verona, Italy, to the Loan Collection.
A short biography of Marega was published in *The Gold Stripe, Volume One*, printed just before Christmas 1918. Marega also had photographs of his sculpture illustrated on the cover of both that issue and *The Gold Stripe, Volume Two* in 1919. The biography also had illustrations of his work.
Charles Marega resigned from the BCSFA in 1919 the year after being President of the Society. The BCSFA board expressed their regret, and moved to ask him to "clearly state the reason for this rather extreme action". There is no record of his reply. (information from BCSFA Fond, Vancouver City Archives)

He was involved in the foundation of the B.C. Art League, sitting on the organization committee in 1920.

He was instructor of modelling at the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts, beginning in the school's first year of operation in 1925. He lectured on sculpture to the B.C. Art League, and published extracts from this lecture in the June 1926 VSDAA annual, known as "The Paint Box".

In 1928 Marega donated a "sculptured replica in white marble of the death mask of Pauline Johnson" to the Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver. (AHSAV fond, Vancouver City Archives)

Marega exhibited at the Vancouver Exhibition in 1930, representing the Palette and Chisel Club. He also exhibited with the B.C. Society of Fine Arts from 1932 to 1934. Marega was one of only three local artists to display work in The Founders Collection, the first exhibition held at the Vancouver Art Gallery when it opened in October 1931. Marega taught at the Vancouver School of Art literally until his death in 1939 - passing away from a heart attack while teaching his last class. He was a founding instructor at the art school, and Vancouver's most important early sculptor.
When Marega was working on the lions at the entrance to the Lion's Gate Bridge, he asked Ross Lort on which side of each lion the tails should go. Lort suggested that the lions each have two tails, one on each side, and that way viewers would see a tail no matter which side they were looking from. Marega apparently did not think this was funny, and the lions have one tail each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EXHIBITION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1909 Oct. - Nov.</td>
<td>Vancouver Studio Club Autumn Exhibition</td>
<td>(wax figures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910 May</td>
<td>BCSFA Third Exhibition</td>
<td>Sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912 Nov. 25 - 30</td>
<td>BCSFA Annual Exhibition</td>
<td>Dr. McLoughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization/Exhibition</td>
<td>Title/Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915 April</td>
<td>BCSFA Works by Members</td>
<td>Indian Basket-Seller, Caryatids, Mozambique Boy, The Miser, Good-bye, How to get the vote!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sketch for Pauline Johnston Memorial, The Victor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917 Sept. 14 - 22</td>
<td>B.C.S.F.A. Eleventh Exhibition</td>
<td>A Comrade's Last Tribute (sculpture), Doing Her Bit (sculpture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924 Aug. 9 - 16</td>
<td>Vancouver Exhibition Annual Exhibition</td>
<td>The Wounded Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928 Feb 18 - Mar 18</td>
<td>Palette and Chisel Club Exhibition</td>
<td>Mussolini (Mask), Comic Stories (Grotesques), Comic Stories (Grotesques), Fighting Putti, Frances Bursill (Impression)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930 Aug. 6 - 16</td>
<td>VanExh Oil Paintings &amp; Water-colours</td>
<td>Mussolini - Bronzed Concrete, Squamish Indian, Bronzed Plaster, Christ - Plaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931 October 5 - ?</td>
<td>Vancouver Art Gallery The Founder's Collection</td>
<td>T.W. Fripp, Artist (Bronze)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932 May - July</td>
<td>VAG All Canadian Exhibition</td>
<td>The Wounded Soldier, Squamish Indian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932 Oct. 5 - 30</td>
<td>VAG 1st Annual B.C. Artists</td>
<td>Bernard McEvoy, Goodbye, The Prospector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Totem Pole Carver, Squaw with Papoose, Indian Basket Seller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933 May 20 - 31</td>
<td>VAG Palette &amp; Chisel Club Exhibition</td>
<td>The Day is Done, Il Genio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15</td>
<td>VAG 2nd Annual B.C. Artists</td>
<td>The Day is Done, Il Genio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14</td>
<td>VAG 3rd Annual B.C. Artists</td>
<td>Bas Relief in Bronze (Medallion), German Soldier (Caricature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946 July 2 - 28</td>
<td>VAG Jubilee Exhibition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 April 25 - May 14</td>
<td>BCSA 40th Annual Exhibition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References

THE GOLD STRIPE - VOLUME ONE
1918, Christmas. Published by the Amputation Club of B.C., Vancouver
216 pages (including text, advertisements and photographs)
Heavily illustrated by many early Vancouver artists.
Includes short biography of Marega and illustrations of his work.

**WHO'S WHO IN NORTHWEST ART** edited by Marion Brymner Appleton
"A Directory of Persons in the Pacific Northwest Working in the Media
of Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, and Handicrafts".
1941; published by Frank McCaffrey, Seattle Washington.
Short reference to Marega.

**100 YEARS OF B.C. ART** (refer to VAG58)

**A GUIDE TO SCULPTURE IN VANCOUVER** (refer to GSV80)

**VANCOUVER: ART & ARTISTS 1931 - 1983** (refer to VAG83)

**MAREGA, Charles**
Short biography, eight references

**A CENTURY OF SCULPTURE** (refer to SSBC98)
Numerous references to Marega, photographs, etc.

**LION'S GATE** by Lilia D'Acres & Donald Luxton
Illustrated throughout; good information on Marega and the Lions.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF ARTISTS IN CANADA**
250 pages; 9 pages of *works cited* referenced to 8,800 artists
2 references *cited* for Marega: Macdonald and WWNA above.

**PUBLIC ART IN VANCOUVER - ANGELS AMONG LIONS** (refer to PAV09)

**VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - B.C. ARTISTS FILES** (refer to VPL)

Clippings

"Having in childhood taken my first steps in a sculptor's studio - having been constantly associated with the plastic art all my life - it is particularly pleasant to welcome to Vancouver a sculptor, Mr. C. Mareges, (sic) who is represented by little realistic groups in wax. These have the right feeling, a directness and life which reminds one of Geo. Tinworth, but there is every indication that the sculptor is capable of broader and more ambitious work - which I shall be glad to see."

"The Studio Club Autumn Exhibition"
*B.C. Saturday Sunset*, October 30 1909

"Nor though have we spoken chiefly of painting, must we forget the sculptor Marega ..."
From "Art in British Columbia", by Bernard McEvoy
"There is only one exhibit of sculpture, namely that of Mr. C. Marega who contributes a portrait bust of his wife, remarkable for its vivacity, and said by those who know to be an excellent likeness; and a smaller bust of the late Right Hon. Sir Charles Tupper. Considering the disadvantages under which the artist labored in having to work only from photographs in this latter subject, he must be credited with a very satisfactory measure of success, the characteristics of the distinguished subject being brought out with a masterly vigor."
From "With The B.C. Artists", by "A Visitor"

_Vancouver Daily Province_, September 27, 1916

"Among members who have had the advantage of European training in the continental schools are ... C. Marega (Rome, Florence, and Paris) ..."
From "Eleventh Annual Exhibition of Fine Arts", Bernard McEvoy

_Studio Magazine_. London England, February 15, 1918

"The committees which will be recommended to the League were named as follows: ... C. Marega ..."
From "B.C. Art League Committees Are Active" by (unknown)

_Western Woman's Weekly_, October 9 1920

"The League unanimously expressed its approval of the proposed memorial by Mr. C. Marega, the sculptor, for erection over the grave of E. Pauline Johnson, in Stanley Park."
"Important Meeting of B.C. Art League"

_Western Woman's Weekly_, April 23 1921

"An energetic committee of which Mr. C. Marega is chairman, has the matter to hand ..."
"Coming Art School"

_The Daily Province_, January 13 1925

"Art Vs. Beer In B.C."
_The Province_, Jan 28, 1931

"Heroic Bronze By Marega Is Acclaimed"
_Vancouver Sun_, Aug. 29 1936

"Lion In The Making"
_Saturday Night_, Toronto; Nov. 26, 1938

"Funeral Of Famed Sculptor Tuesday"
_The Province_, March 27, 1939
Prudence Ida Evelyn Sergison was the daughter of Charles Warden Sergison and Hon. Sir Bertram Norman Sergison-Brooke, son of Arthur Basil Brooke and Alice Georgina Norton, on 8 July 1915. She died on 23 October 1918. From 8 July 1915, her married name became Sergison-Brooke.


Charles Carlos Marega (September 24, 1871 – March 27, 1939) was a Canadian sculptor in the early 20th century. He was born in Lucinico, in the commune of Gorizia, then part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. He received training in plaster work in Mariano, Italy and then studied in Vienna and Zurich. He met Bertha in Zurich, whom he married in 1899. He worked for a while in South Africa then moved to Canada, arriving in Vancouver in October 1909, on their way to California. The North Shore Mountains Charles Carlos Marega was a Canadian sculptor in the early 20th century. He was born in Lucinico, in the commune of Gorizia, then part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. He received training in plaster work in Mariano, Italy and then studied in Vienna and Zurich. Charles Carlos Marega (September 24, 1871 – March 27, 1939) was a Canadian sculptor in the early 20th century.

Joe Fortes Memorial Fountain. One of Marega's lions at the south end of the Lions Gate Bridge. He was born in Lucinico, in the commune of Gorizia, then part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, he received training in plaster work in Mariano, Italy and then studied in Vienna and Zurich.