



FISH SKELETON PAINTING, SHOWN AT FORUM 49, PROVINCETOWN

VARUJAN BOGHOSIAN
PROVINCETOWN, AUGUST 22, 2007

I must have met Kahlil in Boston, but my first recollection of being with him was in Provincetown, in roughly 1950. He dragged me down to his studio and showed me how he gessoed a canvas. Layer after layer, sanded until it was smooth as a baby's skin... that was my first encounter with his extraordinary sensitivity.

Kahlil was a great antiquer. He told me, "Whenever you walk into a place, don't go directly to the object you want!" So, once, I stopped into a junk shop in Framingham and spotted a Chinese bronze vessel on a dusty window sill. I bought it for \$2.00 and called Kahlil right away. He had just gotten an electron microscope, so I brought it over and he examined it. He thought it was authentic and very good. I tried to sell it, but only got \$30.00 for it. I called Kahlil to complain about the price and he said to me, "Are you nuts?! Look at the profit you made!"

Another time, Kahlil showed me an adze he had made... it was from a car spring he had found on the side of the road. He shaped and honed it into an adze. He liked to pick up these fragments, because he said they were from

the finest steel. About this time, he showed me a sculpture he had just finished... a bouquet of flowers made from pieces of metal he'd found and welded together.

His humor is infectious. His inventiveness is incredible. He's a dynamo! He's a Boston treasure, a Massachusetts treasure, and a national treasure! Kahlil can do anything. He's a renaissance man, he's a magician. I think Boston has always been open to men like that... Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne.... new thinking men. Kahlil has made incredible contributions to Boston.

JIM BAKKER
PROVINCETOWN, AUGUST 18, 2007

Kahlil is not only a gifted and talented artist, but also a skilled craftsman and inventor. Who else would you call to make that missing bobèche for your 18th century Queen Anne brass candlesticks, or if you needed a trunk of slunk?

I fondly recall discussing Kahlil's work with Bob Bradley,

IN THE STUDIO, JULY 2005. PHOTO BY JEFFREY BROWN



VARUJAN, KAHLIL AND STEVE AT THE CLUBHOUSE. PHOTO BY JIM BAKKER

JIM BAKKER, CONTINUED

one of his greatest admirers and friends. At my request and Kahlil's urging, Bob generously donated one of Gibran's masterpieces from the original Forum 49 exhibition to the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. One could find no better friend than Kahlil Gibran. Although I see him less frequently than I did in 1998 when I wrote in support of his membership to the St. Botolph Club, every time I see him he brings a smile to my face and it seems like only yesterday.

STEVEN TREFONIDES
LUBEC, SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

I met Kahlil in the early 1950's. We'd see him in Provincetown when my daughter Alexa was five or six, about the same time that I met Hyman Bloom. He and Hyman had been very good friends for a long time and I remember that Kahlil repaired Hyman's musical instruments when they both were involved in mystical, far Eastern music.

Kahlil was very helpful to me. About forty years ago we'd moved to the South End, about a block away from him. Nearby was a liquor store, which created a problem for my family because winos would sleep on our front steps. One day Kahlil showed up pulling a child's little red wagon with a big iron gate on top of it. It was an old one, an antique. Kahlil took out his tools, put it up, and it fit just perfectly. Then he accepted only \$5 for it.

Kahlil's been a good-hearted friend, even when things didn't work out as planned. I remember one snowy day in February in the 50's when Kahlil, Hyman and I, together with our wives, piled into a car and drove through the snow all the way up into the Berkshires to visit the Clark Art Museum in Williamstown. None of us had checked, but the Museum was closed that day. There were no recriminations, only disbelief.

Despite all his accomplishments, Kahlil made the time to call me every day when I was in the hospital.

PROVINCETOWN, 1949, KAHLIL PLAYING THE SAZ HE MADE

