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Gari Melchers Chronology Panels

Bellarmino Museum of Art

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Gari Melchers' Chronology

- 1860** Born Julius Garibaldi Melchers in Detroit, Michigan, to Julius Theodore Melchers (a Prussian-born sculptor and student of Carpeaux) and his wife, Marie Bangetor.
- 1877-81** Trained at the Royal Academy of Art at Düsseldorf, Germany, where he studied figure painting and began to develop his skill at rendering detailed, tightly finished drawings and paintings.
- 1881** Moved to Paris to study at the Académie Julian and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Exposure to contemporary art in Paris may have helped him to lighten his dark palette.
- 1882** The painting *The Letter* (Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.) was accepted into the Paris Salon.
- 1884** Went to Egmond aan Zee, Holland, a fishing village located on the North Sea, where he shared a studio with fellow American painter George Hitchcock. The two founded an art colony and built reputations as chroniclers of Dutch peasant life.
- 1886** Received an honorable mention at the Paris Salon for the painting *The Sermon* (Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.).
- 1889** One of two American artists awarded grand prizes at the Paris Salon for *The Communion* (Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York). The other was John Singer Sargent, for *Portrait of M. Carey Thomas* (Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania).
- 1893** Painted *The Arts of Peace* and *The Arts of War* for the mural program of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois (These are now installed at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan).
- 1895** Painted *Mural of Peace* and *Mural of War* for the Library of Congress Building, Washington, D.C.
- 1903** Married Corinne Lawton Mackall (1880–1955), who was also an artist, on the Isle of Jersey.
- 1904** Became an associate member of the National Academy of Design in New York, and was named a full academician two years later.
- 1909-14** Taught in Weimar, Germany, as professor of painting at the Grand Ducal Academy of Fine Arts.
- 1915** Returned to the United States and opened a studio in New York City.
- 1916** Purchased Belmont as his home and studio, in Falmouth, Virginia.
- 1920-28** Served as president of the New Society of Artists, a collective who exhibited together annually and included such artists as John Sloan, Childe Hassam, Robert Henri and Maurice Prendergast.
- 1932** Died of a heart attack at his Belmont residence in Falmouth, Virginia, just after a major retrospective of his work opened in New York City at the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
- 1942** His wife, Corinne, gave the Belmont estate to the Commonwealth of Virginia to serve as a Gari Melchers' memorial and arts center. Today, it is registered as both a National and Virginia Historic Landmark, and is operated by the University of Mary Washington.
- 1975** Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont opened to the public.