

# Joye & Alexander Zarick



## Joye Zarick

**Birth place:** Chicago, IL

**Addresses:** Plymouth, CT

**Profession:** Painter

**Studied:** Maryland IA with Jacques Mager, 1945; AIC, 1950

**Exhibited:** Trinity College (solo); Univ. Hartford (solo); New Britain Mus. Am. Art; Wadsworth Atheneum; Mattatuck College, 1977 (solo); Housatonic Art Lg., 1987 (retrospective)

**Comments:** Abstract/symbolist figurative painter who, with her painter-husband, Alex, ran the Zarick Gallery in Farmington, CT, during the 1950s-60s.

## Alexander Zarick

1930-1983

An abstract figurative painter, he and his wife Joye, also a painter, ran the Zarick Gallery in Farmington, Connecticut during the 1950s and 1960s.

**Studied:**

Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore

Art Institute of Chicago

**Source:**

Who Was Who in American Art

Submitted by Stephan Mayo

**Source:** By SUSAN CORICA (Bristol Press)

STAFF WRITER

PLYMOUTH — Back in the 1960s, the home of Joye and Alexander Zarick was a center of artistic creativity on Todd Hollow Road. The Plymouth Historical Society will commemorate that time with a special exhibit entitled “The Gift of Joye: A Celebration of Plymouth Artist Joye Zarick.”

Zarick was an accomplished American Expressionist painter. Poets, artists, and actors, such as the then-aspiring thespian/playwright Sam Shepherd, visited the Zaricks to exercise their creativity.

She was born Lucy Joye Ross on March 9, 1923, in Indianapolis, IN, the daughter of William L. Ross and Mildred L. Veit, according to local historian Arlene Wood. She earned a bachelor of fine arts from the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts and a master's from the Chicago Art Institute.

Zarick also studied with Jacques Maroger in Baltimore and in New York City for nine years.

Maroger, who lived from 1884 to 1962, was a painter and the technical director of the Louvre Museum's laboratory in Paris. He devoted his life to understanding the oil-based media of the Old Masters.

He emigrated to the United States in 1939 and in 1942 became a professor at the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts and established a school of painting.

Zarick went on to marry Alexander Zarick. He was born in Bristol Oct. 8, 1929, the son of Jakob Zarick and Josephine Konopka, who attended Ss. Cyril & Methodius Orthodox Church in Terryville.

He was an abstract figurative painter who studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts, where he met his wife.

Together they ran the Zarick Galleries in Farmington and Terryville during the 1950s and 1960s.

The couple created lovely gardens around their pond on Todd Hollow Road, Wood wrote in *The Plymouth Connection*. "Local artists, sculptors, potters, poets, and musicians were attracted to this natural setting and could be found sitting on the benches engaging in lively conversations, listening to poetry readings, while a flutist filled the air with 'the speech of angels.'"

However, Zarick's Abstract Expressionism did not depict such a bucolic setting. "When I first saw Joye's large painting at the Plymouth Historical Society, it screamed 'Holocaust,'" Wood recalled.

"Joye's subject seemed to be fleeing from a discordant black and red horrific reality beyond comprehension. The subject's hands are held up to a distorted skeletal face and plunged into a 20th Century expressionist emotional and psychological state," Wood wrote.

Her series of three charcoal drawings representing memories of the Holocaust — "Self Portrait," "Figures With Hands on Head," and "Figure With Bending Knees" — are part of the Arthur S. Goldberg Collection of Northeastern University in Boston.

Goldberg met her early in his life as an art collector, according to Wood.

Joye Zarick died August 18, 1990 in Waterbury, predeceased by her husband who died Nov. 15, 1982.

Also on display at the historical society that weekend will be local resident Tom Vaughn's collection of antique, locally made clocks dating to the early 1800s.

To contact the Plymouth Historical Society, call (860) 584-4634. For more information, visit [www.plymouthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.plymouthhistoricalsociety.org).