



JOE KING

PAINTER

1911-1996

During a career that spanned nearly 70 years and produced hundreds of works, Joe King became a sought-after painter of presidents, kings and queens.

King began pursuing art as a teen but it did not become his livelihood until, in his mid-30s, when he began receiving commissions for portraits. Traveling abroad allowed King to develop his style. His career took off with “Madonna of the Storm” a painting that won the acclaim of the New York art world and was displayed in the Vatican.

Over his career scores of people posed before his easel, among them President Richard Nixon, Queen Elizabeth of England, and three Kings of Saudi Arabia whom King painted at the request of the State Department. The portraits were presented as a gift from the United States to the Royal Saudi government.

King also was known for his prolific production of landscapes.

In Winston-Salem, King was active in civic affairs. He represented Forsyth County for one term in the N.C. House of Representatives. He served on the Boards of Visitors for Wake Forest University and the N.C. School of Performing Arts (now UNC School of the Arts) and was one of the organizers of the Arts Council, the first of its kind in the United States.

