

*Caps*  
JOHN deMartelly (1903-1979)  
September 10, 1903-December 31, 1979)

Stockton  
The 1980 faculty show is dedicated to the memory of John deMartelly, artist-in-residence at Michigan State University since 1943. ~~xxxxxxhisxxdeakbxxxxxxAzxxzxxvxxzxxf~~  
Born in Philadelphia, he studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, continuing his studies in Florence, Italy, and in London. He headed the graphic arts department at the Kansas City Art Institute, working with Thomas Hart Benton and resigned in protest when Benton was fired. Moving to New Hampshire, he took number of free-lance assignments and contracted to produce four lithographs annually for Associated American Artists. For 17 years of his tenure at MSU, he served as consultant in printmaking at Cranbrook Academy of Art

*and proficient in many mediums,*  
Fluent in three languages, he was conversant in literature, music, boating, fishing, & farming, a universal person devoted to students whether his own or others' and an inspiration to his colleagues.



Nomination for ~~M.S.U. Development Fund~~  
Distinguished Faculty Award

Nominee John S. deMartelly  
College Arts and Letters  
Department Art

Since joining the staff of the Department of Art in 1943, John S. deMartelly has, as an artist-teacher during the ensuing <sup>27</sup>26 years, gained and held the profound respect of several generations of students and a steadily growing faculty.

A prominent member of the Associated American Artists group, active in the 1930's to promote a public interest in the arts of printmaking, John deMartelly brought to M.S.U. a rich understanding of the hand-processes of lithography, then in danger of being superseded by the mechanics of the off-set press. In his research with his students he has succeeded not only in preserving but in greatly extending the medium. His influence has been successfully carried forth by his students, many of whom occupy responsible teaching positions in respected art programs throughout the United States.

John deMartelly's real success as a teacher cannot, however, be adequately measured or described solely by his ability to transmit technical knowledge or simple enthusiasms for processes.

Of far more significance has been the influence of John deMartelly as a man; a man of deep sensibilities, of empathy toward his fellowmen; aware of change and the necessity for change yet unrelenting in his belief in the importance of maintaining the spirit of individualism in men. Trained in the professional art academies



of the United States, England and Italy, his conviction that serious art is an evolutionary and continuing process has offered a much-needed sense of stability to his students in these times of too rapid changes and shortlived isms. As a further indication of John deMartelly's dedicated concern as a teacher, one can cite his long and successful record in the evening college program giving direction and encouragement to adults seeking to find more adequate means of expression for their creative energies.

On a professional level John S. deMartelly has contributed greatly to the developing image of Michigan State University as a center of learning wherein the creative artist may find expression for his energies. In 1947 he was selected as one of ten outstanding American artists to paint "Michigan on Canvas", a project sponsored by the J. L. Hudson Company with the advice of an advisory committee composed of prominent personages across the state.

He was commissioned personally by Mrs. John A. Hannah to paint a portrait of her father, former President Shaw. Two portraits of retired faculty members hang in prominent positions on the campus and a wall painting executed on commission may be seen at the south end of the large lounge of the Union Building.

Mr. deMartelly's record of exhibitions is impressive. By request of the current faculty of Art, a complete retrospective exhibition of his work ~~has been scheduled for the Kresge Center Gallery for the month of April, 1970.~~ Under the direction of Dr. Paul Love, Director of the Gallery, examples of deMartelly's work <sup>WETZ</sup> ~~will be~~ borrowed from owners throughout the United States and brought together for the first time. ~~It would appear to be~~

— ON THE OPENING ...

~~Since the foregoing was written, the retrospective exhibition~~  
~~of John deMartelly's work~~ was held ~~as scheduled~~ in the Kresge Center  
Art Gallery from April 3 - 26, 1970 <sup>UNDER THE DIRECTION</sup> X/ On the opening date 638 persons  
attended the reception held to honor Mr. deMartelly.

The exhibition subsequently drew a total attendance of 7,000 persons and proved to be so successful that the Michigan Council of the Arts, funded by the state legislature, requested permission to borrow a significant portion of the exhibition for distribution throughout the state of Michigan under Council sponsorship. This is the first time the Council has honored an artist through sponsorship of a one-man exhibition.

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~~See catalog attached~~