

Mabel Alvarez

Born on the Hawaiian island of Oahu in 1891, Mabel Alvarez was the youngest of 5 children. Her father, Dr. Luis Fernandez Alvarez was a Spanish born physician to Hawaiian royalty, and a business advisor to the Spanish King's son. With a large fortune made from buying and selling land in Hawaii, Dr. Alvarez moved his family to California, where his children were afforded excellent education.

Mabel Alvarez, who had always shown artistic talent, attended William Cahill's prestigious art academy in Los Angeles. Alvarez enjoyed many immediate successes, including a Gold Medal for a Mural she produced for the Pan-California Exhibition in San Diego.

In the 20's and 30's her works were heavily influenced by the Synchrony Movement's Stanton MacDonald-Wright and Morgan Russell, who would be her teacher for over 20 years. Alvarez's work was a constant evolution. Her late works are introspective, focusing on religious and symbolic themes. She spent the last several years of her life in a nursing home in Los Angeles, where she died in March, 1985.

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