

## **Olin Dows**

**Dates:** 1904-1981

**Residency:** Rhinebeck, New York

**Bibliography:** Olin Dows was a lifelong resident of Rhinebeck, New York. His grandfather, alongside FDR, was a founding member of the Dutchess County Historical Society. Interested in art from an early age, the Dows family hired C.K. Catterton of Vassar College to tutor their son in drawing. Dows attended Harvard College for two years before enrolling at the Yale Art School. The young artist was also involved in the Arts Students League in New York. During these formative years Dows traveled to Mexico where he met muralist Diego Rivera. He also went to Egypt to visit his sister. Both trips were said to have influenced his future work as a muralist. In the early 1940's, Dows was chosen to paint post office murals in Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, New York as part of FDR's Federal Arts Project. The artist's love of his native Hudson Valley was apparent through these works. The sprawling scenes depict the history of the towns, both starting with Henry Hudson's Arrival in 1609. The artist meticulously researched and received approval for the murals from FDR himself.

**Major Accomplishments:** Historical Murals in Rhinebeck and Hyde Park Post Offices.



*Steps, Taco, Mexico, 1933, woodcut*



*On the Way to Meet the Russians, 1945*



*Loading, 1934*