

Sarah Blakeslee (1912-2005)



Barn in Snow 11.25 x 17 Conte Crayon on Paper 1939

Sarah Blakeslee and her husband, Frances Speight, are two of the most important artists who lived and worked in North Carolina during the 20th century. Blakeslee grew up in Washington, D.C. and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and embraced the school's academic realism.

Speight taught painting and drawing at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1925 until 1961. In 1936 he married Blakeslee, who had been one of his students at the academy's Country School at Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. In 1961 they moved to Greenville, North Carolina, where Francis became the artist-in-residence at East Carolina College. Sarah painted and taught adult classes at local art centers.

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