



# TONY SISTI

## BOXER/ARTIST

Tony Sisti was born in Greenwich Village, NY in 1901. He moved to Buffalo, New York when he was eleven. As a young man, Sisti began boxing at a local gym and grew to love the sport. Young Tony also learned his gift for drawing while at Public school #2 when a teacher seen his remarkable work. He competed as a successful amateur bantamweight boxer and won a Western New York Amateur championship before turning professional in 1919. He ended with a 6-3-3 record.

Sisti made the choice to continue his artistic career over a promising boxing career but they will be forever intertwined as stated by the man himself. "I narrowly escaped being kayoed many times while fighting, through admiring my antagonist's body, and wanting to sketch them on canvas. I knew by fighting I was neglecting my painting. One cannot have two masters. I love art." The man who spared with Jimmy Goodrich and Jimmy Slattery packed up his small studio at his home at 257 Vermont Street, on Buffalo's West Side, gave up his truck delivery job

and erstwhile boxing career and set his sights to the study of old world art.

From 1926-1931 Sisti studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy. He became best known for his oil paintings, drawings, and murals. When he ran out of money, Sisti arranged a boxing match in Rome winning enough money to finance his return to Buffalo. When he returned to the States he used the winnings from another fight to underwrite the cost for a personal art show in New York City.

When Sisti returned to Buffalo he joined the Art Institute of Buffalo as a member of the faculty in 1932. He taught painting and anatomy at the institute until 1938 before opening his own gallery in Buffalo on Franklin Street. Over the years, he painted portraits of many important political and business leaders as President Franklin D. Roosevelt among others. In 1981, the City of Buffalo named a park in his honor at the corner of North St. and Linwood Ave. Sisti's works have been exhibited in major museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Pennsylvania Academy of fine Arts, and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. The Burchfield-Penney Art Center currently displays a number of Sisti's paintings in its permanent collection.

His love for art and boxing had him painting murals of noted national boxers, Jack Johnson, Primo Carnera, and Jersey Joe Walcott. Buffalo pugilists who posed for him were Joe Muscato, Lou Scozza, Jackie Donovan, Jimmy Slattery and others. His portrait of heavy weight contender Phil Muscato, titled The Boxer, won the Gold Medal at the 1953 Buffalo Society of Artists exhibition. Pugilist Anthony Sisti was a cultural jewel for the area and his longtime love affair with boxing make him Buffalo's "Two-Canvas Knockout." In 1964, Tony was a registered member in Ring 44.

Tonight Ring 44 of the National Veterans Boxers Association is proud to induct Tony Sisti into our 2013 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.

### 1919

Mar. 13..... Young Herman ..... Buffalo D NWS  
 Mar. 21..... Buddy Ridley ..... Buffalo L NWS 4  
 Mar.31..... Jackie Dundee ..... Buffalo L NWS 4  
 Apr. 29 ..... George Dixon ..... Buffalo W TKO 2  
 Sept. 19..... Patsy Newman ..... Buffalo W NWS 4  
 Nov. 14..... Dick Conlon ..... Sayre, Pa. D NWS 6  
 Nov. 18..... Patsy Newman ..... Sayre, Pa. W NWS 6

### 1920

Mar. 5..... Huckleberry Finn ..... Buffalo L  
 NWS 4  
 Apr. 21 ..... Ray Collins..... Buffalo W KO 2  
 Apr. 28 ..... Young Ellis ..... Buffalo W NWS 4

### 1927

..... Chick Enzo..... Italy D

### 1939

Feb. 20 ..... Eddie Haverty ..... New York W KO 1

### RECORD

Won 6 KO's 3 Lost 3 Drawn 3