

# Grace Carpenter Hudson

Grace Carpenter Hudson was born on February 21, 1865, and was one of the most accomplished Western artists in America. She was a painter that focused on one particular group of Indians, the Pomo Indians. Grace Hudson captured the unique life of the Pomo Indians and brought attention to their heartwarming shyness. Grace painted beautiful life-like pictures and her husband John W. Hudson recorded their customs and language. Together they worked to preserve this vanishing tribe of Indians. The Pomo Indians were very superstitious; they believed that “the native who allowed a person to make a likeness of him gave that person the power of life over him. Others believed that to be painted or ‘captured’ meant death.” (The Painter Lady: Grace Carpenter Hudson, Searles R. Boynton, D.D.S., 1979, 165.) But Grace Hudson gained the trust of the Pomo Indians and has called them, “Her Indians.”

Grace Carpenter at the age of 16 was awarded the Alvord Gold Medal for the best full-length study in crayon. Her first painting of the Pomo was completed in 1891; a 30-by-30 inch painting titled, *National Thorn*, and numbered “1.” Grace Carpenter Hudson did not stop there with just one painting; Grace went on to paint 684 numbered paintings in her lifetime. Grace’s Husband died on January 20, 1936 and Grace never painted after that. Grace followed her husband and died a year later on March 23, 1937. There was little to live for after her husband, John passed away.