



William D. Hutchens, of Fayetteville, has written a coffee table book, "An Artist's Life: Frank Townsend Hutchens." It's about his great uncle, an Impressionist painter. One of the paintings in the books is called "Youth." (Stephen D. Cannerelli / scannerelli@syracuse.com)

'An Artist's Life'

FAYETTEVILLE

RETIREE BRINGS

HIS GREAT UNCLE'S

LEGACY AS

IMPRESSIONIST

PAINTER TO LIGHT

By Melinda Johnson
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William D. Hutchens was 5 years old when he met his great uncle Frank Townsend Hutchens, an Impressionist painter who grew up in Canandaigua. At the time, the summer of 1936, Frank Hutchens was living in Silvermine, Conn., an artists' colony. William Hutchens' only visit with his relation would change his life decades later. The Fayetteville resident, now 82, would devote eight years to researching and writing the 304-page book, "An Artist's Life: Frank Townsend Hutchens" (WDH Press).

The coffee table book with Hutchens' life story, 100 paintings, a few sketches, photographs, exhibition catalogs and personal letters was published this fall by William Hutchens. During his life (1869-1937), Frank Hutchens was prolific. He studied art in his hometown and in Auburn, New York City and France. At one point in the early 1900s, he opened an art school in Unadilla Forks in Otsego

County.

He traveled and painted in France, Tunisia, Florida, Taos, New Mexico, and in the Adirondacks. Hutchens' paintings were included in exhibitions in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Paris, London and Amsterdam. His art might remind one of famous European painters, such as Monet or Cézanne. Hutchens worked in oil and watercolors and some charcoal.

William Hutchens, who retired as managing partner of the Syracuse office of PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1987, downplays the years-long commitment, from 2006 to 2014, in putting together the book. "It was a great opportunity that I had to bring it to other people's attention. It takes no skill on my part to do that. It's all just gathering the material together," he said, sitting in his light-drenched home office with windows exposing an expansive backyard of snow-covered trees and bushes.



William D. Hutchens stands in front of a portrait of his grandfather William C. Hutchens, painted by his great uncle Frank Hutchens, who grew up in Canandaigua. (Stephen D. Cannerelli / scannerelli@syracuse.com)

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