

April Sun

As a young girl in the 1940s I visited artist Robert Strong Woodward's Southwick place home in Buckland, MA. I was living with my mother, May Sumner, in Greenfield but occasionally would stay with my dad, Ray Stone. Ray worked for RSW as did his siblings Fabian and Lena. I particularly remember the kitchen, the antique appointed bathroom with its neat stack of single sheet paper squares instead of a roll, the old horse I timidly fed a piece of apple from atop the stone retaining wall by the barn, my dad walking up the road with a big bottle of cream all for me, and I remember the studio. It was warm, quiet, with a cozy old atmosphere and welcoming with sunlit multi-pane windows. *April Sun* is a painting of and through these windows. In my loom room hangs a loved Ben Ashworth sepia print of *April Sun*. This print was given to me as a Christmas gift from my dad in 1944. I had watched Mr. Woodward as he was painting it. He sat in his wheelchair dressed in suit and tie with a fringed plaid blanket over his lap and legs. I still prefer small pane windows, old wood, early New England architecture, trees and hilly county side. Did it begin there ?