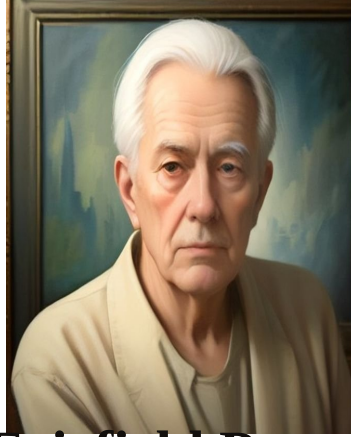




## Fairfield Porter

*June 10, 1907 - September 18, 1975*

Southampton, New York

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Fairfield Porter, American painter, printmaker, and art critic who kept figurative painting alive at the height of Abstract Expressionism, died in Southampton, New York, on September 18, 1975. He was sixty-eight. Born June 10, 1907, in Winnetka, Illinois, into a family of architects and poets - brother to photographer Eliot Porter - he studied at Harvard and the Art Students League, then settled into a Long Island and Maine life of domestic interiors, coastal light, and portraits that treated everyday space as worthy of high seriousness.

While New York's avant-garde chased gesture and sublime void, Porter painted tables, children, friends, and harbors with a surface informed by abstraction yet loyal to observed life. Criticism for Art News and other journals made him a lucid defender of representation without nostalgia. Collectors and museums later recognized what peers sometimes missed: that his quiet rooms were as modern as any drip painting, only differently brave.

Southampton and the island summers framed the work; heart attack ended it. Retrospectives since have placed him among the essential American realists of the postwar era - a painter's painter whose influence runs through later figurative revivals.

He died in Southampton on September 18, 1975. The canvases still look freshly seen, as if the morning light had only just arrived.

Porter's gift was attentive calm - making ordinary American rooms hold monumental feeling. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 18 remembers the Illinois-born realist who refused to abandon the visible

world.

## Services

Died in Southampton, New York, September 18, 1975. American painter and art critic; noted figurative realist during the Abstract Expressionist era; brother of photographer Eliot Porter.

NN-OBIT-2026-H123

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