

For Immediate Release

Reverend McKendree Robbins Long

Salvation and Smothered Passions

God's wrath at human wickedness and the just torments suffered by the damned are among the subjects of the large paintings by visionary artist, Reverend McKendree Robbins Long. After a thirty-year career as an itinerant evangelist preacher, he illustrated scenes from the Book of Revelations. Creating a dramatic balance of lush forests and clouds with violent clashes of the divine and the human, Long posits his scenes of 'end-times' within fantasy landscapes. In addition to Long's Revelations paintings, equally fascinating are his obsessive, passionate portraits depicting a mysterious 'Woman in Red.'

Born in 1876 in Statesville, NC, Long was trained at the Art Students League and the Slade School in London and began his career as a portrait painter. Shortly after serving in World War I, he gave up his fledgling portraiture business to become a Presbyterian minister in 1922 and an itinerant preacher and evangelist in 1925. After many years, he grew increasingly uncomfortable in the Presbyterian Church and was ordained as a Baptist preacher in 1935. Upon retiring from preaching in the late 1950s, Long took up painting again in a style that matched the intensity and strength of his hellfire preaching.

Reverend Long's paintings will be presented for the first time in New York at Luise Ross Gallery. These were recently part of a Long retrospective that traveled to North Carolina museums. His work has been exhibited widely and is included in many major museum collections.

Title: Reverend McKendree Robbins Long
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Dates: **3 January - 28 February 2004**

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