

San Francisco Society of Women Artists, 1895-1960

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Container List:

Box 1, Folder 1: Sketch Club Exhibition Catalogues, 1895-1912

These catalogs include a list of the art exhibited as well as officers, directors and members of the Sketch Club. Addresses are listed along with names. Included in the folder are:

- Fifth Semi-Annual Exhibition of the Sketch Club from 1895, which included artists Geneve Rixford Sargeant, Mary Williams Davison, Bertha Stringer Lee, Nellie Stearns Goodloe, J. M. Hyde, Blanche Letcher, Lucia Wores, Helen Lavery Rey, and others.
- Spring Exhibition Catalogue, 1899, which included artists Albertine Randall Wheelan, Bertha Stringer Lee, Lilian Vasaria, A. L. Bremer, Helen Hyde, Mabel Downing, Nellie Stearns Goodwin, Maren Frolich, Carrie Callahan, and others.
- Art Exhibition Catalogue from Feb 22-March 7, 1907 including art from Alida Ghiradelli, Olga Ackerman, Anne M. Bremer, Marcy C. Brady, Eugen Neuhaus, Almira Austin Judson, A. F. Matthews, Lucia K. Mathews, Percy Gray, and others. This catalog also includes a list of officers and active members. Men are listed among the artists in the exhibition, and as members in 1907, but are not among the officers. The 1906-1907 officers are Anne M. Bremer, president, Mrs. Fred Vaughan, vice-president, Mrs. G. Sturtevant, recording secretary, Josephine M. Hyde, corresponding secretary, Mrs. L. Eugene Lee, treasurer.
- Three copies of the 1908 Exhibition Catalogue, one of which is extensively annotated with what looks like corrections and updates to addresses. Artists included Olga Ackerman, Mary Brady, Katharine Bishop, Nora Cashin, Amy Dewing, William Keith, Isabel Hunter, Arthur F. Mathews, and others. This catalog also lists the names of officers and members.
- 1908-1909 Catalogue of Pictures from an exhibition of loaned and member art. The member artists included Helen Arnstein, Katherine Bishop, Anne Bremer, Alice Best, Louisa Breeze, Thomas McGlynn, Roweena Meeks, Xavier Martinez, Francis McComas, Ralph Stackpole, Lucia Mathews, Arthur Mathews, Will Sparks, and others. A list of Sketch Club officers is included.
 - There is a letter tucked into the catalog to Miss Hyde (possibly Miss Josephine Hyde, the Corresponding-Secretary to the Sketch Club) encouraging her to send personal notes to the City Editors and listing who that is for each of the major local papers. There are also annotations throughout, mostly adding addresses to the names of the individuals who loaned art for the exhibit.
- Three copies of the Fall Exhibition of Paintings Catalogue from 1909. Artists included Olga Ackerman, Helen Arnstein, Gertrude Arnstein, Martha Kuck, William Keith, Xavier Martinez, Berham Nahl, Harriet Wade, and others. Includes a list of Sketch Club officers.
- Two copies of 1910 Catalogue of Paintings, one of which is extensively annotated with address updates. Artists in the exhibition include Roweena Meeks Abdy, Helen Balfour, Alice Best, Louisa Breeze, Alice Chittenden, Nellie Fay, Will Sparks, Ralph Stackpole. Includes list of officers and names and addresses of members.

- Catalogue of Paintings from 1912. Artists in the Exhibition include Roweena Meeks Abdy, Aaron Altman, McLeod Batten, Dora Jacobs, Alice B. Chittenden, Mary Helen Carlisle, Lucia Mathews, Francis McComas, Jane McElroy, Jessie Francis Short, and others. Includes a list of officers.

Box 1, Folder 2: Sketch Club Correspondence, 1906-1914

Includes:

- A note offering help and condolences on a lost house from May 1906 as a result of the earthquake and fire.
- A 1910 returned postcard reminding of a meeting.
- A 1910 letter to Miss Florence N. Levy from the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Covington Johnson, which provides a list of Sketch Club officers, notes that their annual meeting is in May and lists the lectures given during the 1907-1910 time period.
- Several letters from 1910-12 (and many undated) indicating payment of dues.
- A letter from 1914 from the secretary of the San Francisco Art Association formally inviting the Sketch Club to avail itself of the gallery in the Institute.

Box 1, Folder 3: Sketch Club Postcards of Special Events, 1910-1911

Includes:

- Two copies of an undated postcard announcing a May 7th-May 14th Architectural Exhibition. Each has notes written on the back, one from 1910 and one from 1911.
- A 1910 postcard announcing a talk by Miss Rosa G. Taussig on "Bookbinding."
- 1910 postcard announces a talk by Dr. Kaplan on "The Art of Living"
- A 1911 postcard announcing a talk by Mr. Oscar Weil on "Some American Artists and their work."
- A 1911 postcard announcing a Studio Tea.

Box 1, Folder 4: Sketch Club Treasurer's Report, 1906-1911

Includes:

- Yearly and quarterly reports including receipts, expenditures, disbursements, and funds for the time period spanning 1906 through 1911.

Box 1, Folder 5: Sketch Club Receipts, 1906-1911

Includes:

- A large collection of receipts for things like room rentals, cleaning, library fund, publications of pamphlets, insurance, postage, food, furniture, and others.

Box 1, Folder 6: Sketch Club Checkbooks, 1906-1916

Includes:

- Five checkbooks and two collections of check stubs with notations of transactions spanning 1908-1916.

Box 1, Folder 7: Sketch Club Savings Books, 1907-1910

Includes:

- Two savings books for the Sketch Club one from the San Francisco Savings Union and one from The Savings and Loan Society.

Box 1, Folder 8: Sketch Club Members Lists, 1909

Includes:

- Lists of hand written and typed member lists, most undated, some from 1909.

Box 1, Folder 9: Sketch Club Corresponding Secretary's Reports, 1910-1911

Includes:

- Three handwritten reports from the Sketch Club's corresponding secretary from 1910-1911.

Box 1, Folder 10: San Francisco Society of Artists, 1914-1916

Includes:

- A bank savings book belonging to the San Francisco Society of Artists from 1914-16, the period of time when the Sketch Club briefly became a part of the society before both merged with the San Francisco Art Association.
- Copy of a 1914 Statement of Purpose by members of the San Francisco Society of Artists proposing to join the San Francisco Art Association and laying out certain criteria for doing so. (Copied from the originals in the San Francisco Art Association Board Minutes)
- Copies of a series of 1914 letters between the San Francisco Art Association and members of the San Francisco Society of Artists (Francis McComas, Bruce Porter, Gottardo Piazzoni, and Harold Mack) discussing the Statement of Purpose from the latter to join the association. (Copied from the originals in the San Francisco Art Association Board Minutes)
- Copies of minutes from October and November 1915 San Francisco Art Association board meetings where the idea of merging the San Francisco Society of Artists with the San Francisco Art Institute is discussed. (Copied from the originals in the San Francisco Art Association Board Minutes)
- Copies of a 1916 letter from Francis McComas accusing the association of ignoring the constitution drawn for the amalgamation of the San Francisco Art Association and the San Francisco Society of Artists and tendering his resignation as a member of the association. A copy of the Association's response is also included here. (Copied from the originals in the San Francisco Art Association Board Minutes)
- Copies of news articles and book excerpts that discuss the Sketch Club's merging into the San Francisco Society of Artists and then the merger with the San Francisco Art Association.

Box 1, Folder 11: San Francisco Society of Women Artists Exhibition Catalogues, 1932-1960

Includes:

- 7th Annual Exhibition Catalogue from a November 5- December 9, 1932 exhibit at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Prizewinners included Dorothy Wagner Puccinelli, Alexandra Bradshaw, and Jane Berlandia.
- 20th Annual exhibit of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists held Nov 28-Dec 16, 1945. Included in the exhibit were Ruth Armer, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Juliette Steele, Leah Hamilton, Mari Hiatt and others.
- 22nd Annual Exhibition Catalogue from the (now named) San Francisco Women Artists, November 17-December 14, 1947. Included in the exhibit were Ruth Armer, Marian Simpson, Mary Dumas, Emmy Lou Packard, Juliette Steele, Florence Gulli Rossi, Elah Hale Hays, Caroline Martin, and others.
- Two copies of the 23rd Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog (and a flier about the event), held November 12-Dec 19, 1948. Exhibitors include: Claire Falkenstein, Blanche Phillips, Ethel Weiner, E.M. Smith, Dorothy McKee, Imogen Cunningham, Esther Fuller, and others.
- 24th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog held Nov 19-Dec 18, 1949. Artists include: Elizabeth Mailliard, Irene Pattison, Irene Lagorio, Mary Dumas, Alma Lavenson, Juliette Steele, Imogen Cunningham, and others.
- 25th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog held from Nov 17-Dec 10 1950 featuring artists Margaret Bruton, Ella Alluisi, Ida Day Degen, Edith M. Smith, Ruth C. Melnicoe, Helen Salz, Ruth Armer, Imogen Cunningham, Frances Young, Alma Lavenson, and others.
- 27th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition catalog held in 1952 including artists Edna Stoddart, Gertrude Murphy, Jean Halpert, Margaret Peterson, Caroline Martin, Ruth Armer, Mary Dumas, Lucille. M. Paris, and others.
- 28th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog held Nov 13-Dec 12, 1952 including artists Buff Haney, Edna Stoddard, Emiko Nakano, Nancy Genn, Imogen Cunningham, Marion Carnahan, Frances Baldwin, Allison Vera, and others.
- 30th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog from 1955 including artists V. Adams Davis, Phoebe Deignan, Jean Halpert-Ryden, Muriel Savin, Florence Hickman, Alma Lavenson, Sally Hallyer, and others.
- 34th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog from 1959 including artists Nell Sinton, Vera Lount, Georgia Fay Casidy, Beth Van Hoesen, Irene Pattinson, Bits Hayden, Eleanor Dickinson, Gertrude Murphy, and others.
- 35th Annual San Francisco Women Artists Exhibition Catalog from 1960 including artists Baila Feldman, Caroline Martin, Sally Fox, Muriel Savin, Bernice Sender, Audrey Aikin, Vera Borzy, Gloria Brown, Imogen Cunningham, and others.

Box 1, Folder 12: San Francisco Society of Women Artists Administration, 1925, 1950

Includes:

- A copy of the Constitution and By Laws of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists
- The 1925-1929 booklet includes a short history of the founding of the San Francisco Society of Women artists, lists of officers and committees, treasurer's report, and an annotated list of members.

- A copy of the application for general membership to the San Francisco Society for Women Artists.
- A 1950 list of San Francisco women artists.

Box 1, Folder 13: San Francisco Society of Women Correspondance, 1931-1948

Includes:

- A September 12, 1931 letter to the California School of Fine Arts from the president of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists, Christine Lillian requesting a typed monthly schedule for inclusion in the SFSWA bulletin.
- A letter from December 5, 1931 (including another letter from November 27, 1931) from Florence Boenwald to Mrs. Sullivan asking for the return of pictures (specified in the enclosed letter).
- A letter from January 10, 1932 to Mrs. Albright from Ruth Rittenhouse asking for the return of her sketches and listing the seven sketches she wants returned.
- A letter dated June 1932 to Mr. Spencer Macky from Miss Laura Marshall inquiring about three pictures, decorative studies of flowers, that she sent to the jury of admissions for the Society of Women Artists. She was accepted and attended the luncheon, at which time she located her pictures and asked for them to be sent on, but they have not yet been received.
- A series of correspondence between February 24 1933 and April 1933 takes up the issue of the Bay Bridge design including:
 - A letter from SFSWA president, Jeanette Dyer Spencer to the San Francisco Art Association urging that organization to take the same course of action the SFSWA did: requesting that the approaches and abutments of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge be made the subject of a public competition.
 - A reply from E. Spencer Macky, executive secretary of the San Francisco Art Association, on March 27, 1933 informing Ms. Spencer that the association did not get a chance to discuss the matter at their last meeting, but still plan to.
 - There then follow three letters dated April 1, 1933 from E. Spencer Macky to Mr. Earl Kelly, State Director of Public Works, California Governor James Rolph, and California Toll Bridge Authority urging a competition among architects take place to select the best design for the bridge, approaches, and abutments.
 - A response to Mr. Macky follows on April 11, 1933, from the Director of Public Works, informing him that an architectural committee has been selected and he should take any concerns up with them.
- An invitation to (and RSVP from) Mr. and Mrs. Randolph to the Annual San Francisco Society of Women Artists dinner to be held at the Women's City Club, December 7th 1933.
- A letter from 1933 from an unspecified sender thanking Mrs. A. F. Weyl for hydrangea plants.
- Letter from Amy Heyneman dated August 28 to Mr. Zeile regarding setting up a time to meet with the Women's Association to discuss the San Francisco museum situation and a response to Mrs. Heymen regarding scheduling from the San Francisco Art Association dated August 31, 1934.

- Correspondence between Helen B. Reynolds, president of the SFSWA and president and executive committee of the San Francisco Art Association regarding a conflict in exhibition schedules:
 - A letter from Mrs. Reynolds asks the association to postpone their exhibition since the SFSWA exhibit was already scheduled at the same time.
 - On October 8, 1934 letter from the association to Mrs. Reynolds agrees to postpone.
 - A letter from Mrs. Reynolds to Mr. Zeile expresses appreciation.
- A January 12, 1947 letter from E. Shotwell Wood thanking the recipient for the use of the library at the Art School and discussing logistics for a dinner to be held January 25th.
- A letter from Ida Day Degen, president of the San Francisco Women Artists to Mr. MacAgy inviting him to serve on a jury to select the three scholarships for children's art. A reply dated September 19, 1947 on behalf of Mr. MacAgy thanks Mrs. Degen.
- Correspondence between the San Francisco Art Association and the San Francisco Women Artists from October 1947-May 1949 grappling with the nature of the San Francisco Women Artists' membership in the San Francisco Art Association. Includes:
 - A letter from October 16, 1947 from Ida Day Degen, president of the SFWA asks what kind of benefits their membership in the association confers. This letter is a copy and it includes a note that clarifies that the intent of the letter (gleaned from a follow-up phone call) is to understand what the SFWA gains from their membership and whether they should continue with it given they are trying to reduce expenses.
 - A reply on November 4, 1947 clarifies that there is no direct return to members, that membership in the San Francisco Art Association is really a matter of civic pride.
 - The matter appears to be resolved in a letter from May 11, 1949 to Ida Day Degen terminating the San Francisco Women Artists's membership in the San Francisco Art Association due to the latter discontinuing group memberships as a category of membership in the association.
- A November 25, 1947 letter from Douglas MacAgy to Ida Day Degen forwards a letter requesting information on women artists from Pauline Young at USC.
- A November 17, 1948 letter from Douglas MacAgy to Ida Day Degen about the SFWA children's scholarship.

Box 1, Folder 14: San Francisco Society of Women Artists Bulletins, 1930-1931, 1947-1951

Includes:

- A copy of a 1930 and 1931 bulletin (with the notation that the original is with the scrapbooks).
- September 1947 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists listing new members, events, and activities of members including Meta Hendel, Jean Bradford Fay, Shotwell Wood, and Marian Clark Cooch (two copies).

- October 1947 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing the meeting, the officers and activities of members including Dorr Bothwell, Mrs. Frances Cohn, Ethel Pearce, and Leah Rinne Hamilton.
- November 1947 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and highlighting member activities including Nancy Thompson, Irene Lagorio, Emmy Lou Packard, and Maragret Peterson.
- February 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and dinner, new members and activities of members including Juliette Steele, Ethel Weiner, Irma Engel, and Gertrude Hartmann.
- March 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Claire Falkenstein, Edna Stoddart, Ruby O'Rourke, Marie Walter, and Elena Netherby.
- April 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Clarise Bois, Ruth Armer, Helen Salz, and Edith Heath. The death of Marion Cunningham is also announced.
- May 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Ellen Bransten, Louise Kellogg Hilbert, and Doris Robertson.
- September 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Ida Day Degen, Amy Fleming, Blanche Phillips, and Frances Baldwin.
- October 1948 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Ruth Armer, Dorr Bothwell, Katherine Westphal, Helen Salz, and Nellie Rucker.
- April 1949 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Enid Foster, Beverly Perrson, Meta Hendel, and Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy.
- September 1949 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Ruth Gerth Kosmak, Ruth Cravath, and Juliette Steele.
- April 1950 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing proposed amendment to the constitution to have the Loan Collection Prize alternate each year with the President's Purchase Prize. Reports on activities of members including Madeleine Reichert, Esther Fuller, Elsie Lower Pomeroy, and Kisa Beeck.
- October 1950 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Ethel Nerger, Mary Erckenbrack, and Caroline Smith.
- October 1951 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on activities of members including Loyola Fourtane, Katherine Caldwell, Liesel Rosenthal, and Edith Smith.
- November 1951 Bulletin of San Francisco Women Artists announcing meeting and events and reporting on prize winners and activities of members including Irene Lagorio, Lydia Van Gelder, Imogen Cunningham, and Ruth Armer.

Box 1, Folder 15: San Francisco Society of Women Artists Newspaper Clippings, 1946-1950

Includes:

- Clipping of a November 10, 1946 San Francisco Examiner announcement of the prize winners of the 21st annual San Francisco Society of Women Artists exhibit.
- A clipping from a Nov. 11, 1946 article in the San Francisco Chronicle by Alfred Frankenstein reviewing the SFWA annual exhibit.
- January 28, 1947 article, *S.F. Women Artists Go to Town in What They Call Hats*, in the San Francisco Examiner written by Dilys Jones describing an event the San Francisco Society of Women Artists put on at the California School of Fine Arts where they donned homemade hats.
- Clipping from February 14, 1948 from an unknown paper announcing a traveling show of the San Francisco Women Artists opening in Boise.
- Clipping of a May 25, 1948 announcement in the San Francisco Chronicle of the San Francisco Women Artists traveling show, which is described as "Somewhere in Idaho or Montana."
- Article entitled *Awards go to Women: Prize Winners Named in Show* by Emilia Hodel from November 13, 1948 announces Claire Falkenstein top prize at the SFWA annual exhibit.
- Article in the San Francisco Chronicle from November 17, 1948 *An Exhibit of Women Artists' Work* announces the 23rd annual SFWA exhibit.
- Article from November 28, 1948 by Alfred Frankenstein reviews the 23rd annual SFWA exhibit, highlighting work from Juliette Steele, Imogen Cunningham, Alma Lavenson, and Louisa Jenkins.
- May 4, 1950 article in the Berkeley Gazette announcing the election of new officers of the San Francisco Women Artists.
- A Nov. 2, 1950 review of the 25th annual SFWA exhibit (among other shows) by R. H. Hagen in the San Francisco Chronicle.
- November 20, 1950 review of the 25th annual SFWA exhibit written by H. L. Dungan for the Oakland Tribune.
- November 26, 1950 clipping of a reproduction in the Oakland Tribune of "By the Sea" by Ella Alluisi.
- December 3, 1950 article in the San Francisco Chronicle about the SFWA 25th annual exhibition. Includes a photograph of art by Hilma Johnson, Florence Swift, and Margaret Bruton.

Box 1, Folder 16 Supporting Materials

Includes:

- Copies of articles and other informational materials of relevance to the collection.