

South County Art Association Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Tel: 401.783.1328, website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: South County Art Association Collection

Dates: 1927 - 2000

Media: bound volumes, papers, photographic prints

Quantity: 15 boxes, 1 Oversized box, 7.5 linear feet

Identification: Accession number 2022.007

Language: English

Historical Note

The South County Art Association (SCAA) began in 1927 when John W. Dawson invited his artist friends to hold an exhibition at his private studio in Wickford. The group was comprised of prominent Rhode Island artists including Dawson, H. Anthony Dyer, Frank Convers Mathewson, Hilda Anderson, Sydney Burleigh, Herbert R. Cross, Chester Dodge, Anthony Dyer, Lee Jeffrey, Albert McCutchen, Bertha Noyes, Fred Sisson, and Stacy Tolman. Annual exhibits followed, and on June 29, 1929, the group formally named itself the South County Art Association. SCAA officially incorporated in 1937.

According to the SCAA by-laws its purpose is to “promote an interest in art and to encourage artists in Washington County, Rhode Island.” Since its inception it has held regular exhibitions, lectures, classes, and fundraisers. Notable members have included Helen Mason-Grose, Rodman Noka, Frank Convers Mathewson, Mathias Oppersdorf, Thomas Ladd, Benjamin de Brie Taylor and others.

Beginning in 1934 the SCAA held annual meetings and exhibits in the Peace Dale Guild Hall. This continued until 1944 when Bernon E. Helme, a civic leader and SCAA member, passed away and bequeathed a portion of his estate to the Association. This endowment was then used to purchase the Helme House in Kingston, which Bernon Helme owned at the time of his death, in 1944. The Helme House continues to serve as the SCAA headquarters today.

In 1930, SCAA members formed a committee to raise money and purchase the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace. This group later incorporated as a separate organization, the Gilbert Stuart Memorial, Inc.

Scope and Content

The records of the South County Art Association include administrative records, blueprints, correspondence, financial records, ledger books, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, and photographs. The bulk of the records were created between 1927 and 2000 by SCAA members. The collection has been arranged into six distinct series:

Series I: Administrative Records 1929 – 2000

Subseries I: Governance and Corporate 1929 – 2000

Subseries II: Committee Records 1938 – 2000

Subseries III: Membership Rosters 1929 – 2000

Series II: Financial Records 1929 – 2000

Subseries I: Financial Statements and Budgets 1929 – 2000

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Financial Records 1939 – 2000

Series III: Property Records 1937 – 2000

Series IV: Programming 1929 – 2000

Subseries I: Publicity 1929 – 2000

Subseries II: Exhibits 1929 – 2000

Subseries III: Artist Biographies and Statements, undated

Series V: Correspondence 1934 – 2000

Series VI: Newspaper Clippings, 1930 – 2000

Appendix A: Artist Index (artists whose work was exhibited at SCAA shows)

Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

Preferred Citation: South County Art Association Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: This collection was created by members of the South County Art Association, which donated the collection to the South County History Center in 2022. Additional materials may be added to the collection in the future.

Processed by: Caleb Goodhouse, with the generous support of Kenneth R. Woodcock and the South County Art Association.

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Subject Terms

Art--Rhode Island; Art--Rhode Island--South Kingstown; Kingston (R.I. : Town) -- History; South County Art Association; South Kingstown (R.I.)--Pictorial works; Washington County (R.I.) -- Pictorial works

People

Burleigh, Sydney Richmond, 1853-1931

Clark, Henry G.

Dodge, Chester L., 1880-1949

Dyer, H. Anthony, 1872-1943

Grose, Helen Mason, 1880-1960

Helme, Bernon E., 1857-1944

Ladd, Thomas

Kinney, Lorenzo Jr.

Mathewson, Frank Convers, 1862 – 1941

Noka, Christopher Rodman, 1894 – 1970

Oppersdorff, Mathias T., 1935 – 2010

Robinson, Henry

Smayda, Norma

Taylor, Benjamin DeBrie, 1923 – 2013

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following South County History Center holdings: Artwork Collection, Ernest Hamlin Baker Collection, Every Tuesday Club Collection, Tavern Hall Club and Preservation Society Collection, Mathias Oppersdorf Collection, and Rodman Noka Collection.

Researchers may also wish to consult the following collections at other repositories:

Benjamin de Brie Taylor papers, 1930-2003. Paul V. Galvin Library. University Archives and Special Collections, Illinois Institute of Technology.

Helen Mason-Grose Collection, South Kingstown Public Library, Rhode Island

Contents Listing

Series I: Administrative Records 1929 – 2000

This series contains records related to SCAA's governance, committees, and membership. It includes meeting minutes, committee reports, and membership rosters. It has been arranged into three subseries.

Subseries I: Governance and Corporate Records 1929 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
Oversized	1	Articles of Association, Constitution, and Tax Exemption	1937 - 1946
1	2	Bylaws	1936 – 1999
Ledgers	-	Ledger Book 1 – Meeting Minutes	1929 – 1936
1	3	Annual Meeting Minutes	1935 – 1948
1	4	Annual Meeting Minutes	1949 – 1952
1	5	Annual Meeting Minutes	1953 – 1959
1	6	Annual Meeting Minutes	1960 – 1969
1	7	Annual Meeting Minutes	1970 – 1989
1	8	Annual Meeting Minutes	1990 – 1999
2	9	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1936 – 1962
2	10	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1963 – 1969

2	11	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1970 – 1979
2	12	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1980 -1989
2	13	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1990 – 1995
2	14	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1996 – 1997
3	15	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1997 – 1998
3	16	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1998 – 1999
3	17	Officer and Committee Rosters	1948 – 1996
3	18	State of Rhode Island Non-Profit Reports	1946 - 1999
3	19	Bequests, Gifts and Grant Applications	1944 - 2000
3	20	Employee Policies and Procedures	1995 – 2000

Subseries II: Committee Records 1938 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
3	21	Printing and Publicity Committee	1938 - 1940
3	22	Exhibition Committee	1939 - 1995
3	23	Exhibition Committee	1996 – 1999
4	24	Artist Members Meetings	1940 – 1942
4	25	Tea and Hospitality Committee	1940 – 1947
4	26	House Committee	1946 – 1948
4	27	Finance Committee	1946 – 1999
4	28	Program Committee	1967 – 1980
4	29	Pottery Shop Committee	1973 – 2000
4	30	Education Committee	1994
4	31	Fundraising Committee	1994 – 1998

Subseries III: Membership 1929 - 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
Ledgers	-	Ledger Book 2 – Membership Rosters	1929 - 1934
4	32	Membership Rosters	1930 – 1969
Oversized	33	Membership Rosters	1931 – 1944
4	34	Membership Rosters	1970 – 1979
4	35	Membership Rosters	1980 – 1999
4	36	Pottery Shop Membership Rosters	1980 – 1996
4	37	Membership Survey	1995
4	38	SCAA History Resources	1950 - 1990

Series II: Financial Records 1929 – 2000

This series contains records related to SCAA's finances, including annual and quarterly reports, budgets, stock portfolios, and tax documents. It has been arranged into two subseries.

Subseries I: Financial Statements and Budgets 1929 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
Ledgers	-	Ledger Book 3	1927 - 1931
5	1	Annual Reports	1934 – 1979
5	2	Annual Reports	1980 – 1989
5	3	Annual Reports	1990 – 2000

5	4	Quarterly Reports	1980 – 19956
5	5	IRS Form 990s	1945 - 1969
5	6	IRS Form 990s	1970 - 1979
5	7	IRS Form 990s	1980 – 1993
5	7A	IRS Form 990s	1994 – 1999
5	8	Budgets	1958 – 2000

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Financial Records 1939 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
5	9	Treasurer's Correspondence	1939 – 1949
6	10	Treasurer's Correspondence	1950 – 1959
6	11	Treasurer's Correspondence	1960 – 1965
6	12	Treasurer's Correspondence	1966 – 2000
6	13	Artwork Sales	1939 – 1979
6	14	Artwork Sales	1980 – 2000
6	15	Event Financials	1940 – 1995
7	16	Pottery Shop Financials	1974 – 2000
7	17	Self-Audits	1995 – 2000

Series III: Property Records 1937 – 2000

This series contains records related to the acquisition and maintenance of the Helme House. It contains blueprints, contracts, insurance appraisals, inventories, leases, deeds, and maps.

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
7	1	Post Office Leases	1937 – 1969
7	2	Helme House Appraisals	1944 – 1992
Oversized	3	Land Deeds	1945
Oversized	4	Land Deeds	1945
7	5	Caretaker Contracts	1946 – 2000
Oversized	6	Land Purchase Agreement	1947
7	7	Helme House Repairs and Modifications	1967 – 1999
Oversized	8	Helme House Floor Plans	1983
7	9	Helme House Photographs	n.d.
Map Case Drawer 11	10	Helme House Plat Maps	1944
Map Case Drawer 11	11	Helme House Blueprints	1949 – 1973

Series IV: Programming 1929 – 2000

This series contains records related to SCAA exhibits and events. It includes promotional materials such as newsletters, press releases, and flyers. It also includes exhibit catalogs, artist resumes and statements, and photographs of artwork and events. It has been divided into four subseries. Refer to Appendix A for a list of artists included in Subseries IV.

Subseries I: Publicity 1930 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
8	1	Newsletters	1930 – 1989

8	2	Newsletters	1990 – 1995
8	3	Newsletters	1995 – 2000
8	4	Announcements	1968 – 1980
8	5	Announcements	1985 – 1995
8	6	Announcements	1996 – 2000
8	7	Announcements	n.d.
8	8	Announcements	n.d.
8	9	Pottery Shop Newsletters	1996 – 2000
8	10	Membership Appeals	1997 – 1999

Subseries II: Exhibits 1929 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
Ledgers	-	Ledger Book 4 – Exhibit Listings	1927 - 1932
9	11	Exhibit Schedules	1929 – 1998
9	12	Exhibit Catalogs	1929 – 1959
9	13	Exhibit Catalogs	1960 – 1969
9	14	Exhibit Catalogs	1970 – 1974
9	15	Exhibit Catalogs	1975 – 1979
9	16	Exhibit Catalogs	1980 – 1985
10	17	Exhibit Catalogs	1986 – 1989
10	18	Exhibit Catalogs	1990 – 1995
10	19	Exhibit Catalogs	1996 – 2000
10	20	Awards and Prizes	1954 – 1999
10	21	Lorenzo Kinney, in memoriam	1999
Oversized	22	Exhibit Catalogs	1969 – 1999

Subseries III: Photographs of Artwork and Events 1950 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
11	23	Photographs of Artwork	1950 - 2000
11	24	Photographs of Artwork	1980 – 2000
11	25	Photographs of Artwork	n.d.
11	26	Event Photographs	1990 – 2000
11	27	Member's Annual Event	1996 – 2000

Subseries IV: Artist Resumes and Biographies, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
11	28	Artist Biographies, A – E	n.d.
11	29	Artist Biographies, F – O	n.d.
11	30	Artist Biographies, P – Z	n.d.

Series V: Correspondence 1934 – 2000

This series contains correspondence between SCAA members, including officers. The correspondence of SCAA presidents Henry Robinson and Henry Clark have been separated into their own folders.

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
12	1	Henry Robinson, President, Correspondence	1934 – 1944

12	2	Henry Clark, President, Correspondence	1938 – 1951
12	3	Correspondence	1937 – 1949
12	4	Correspondence	1950 – 1959
12	5	Correspondence	1960 – 1967
12	6	Correspondence	1968 – 1969
12	7	Correspondence	1970 – 1974
13	8	Correspondence	1975 – 1979
13	9	Correspondence	1980 – 1989
13	10	Correspondence	1990 – 1993
13	11	Correspondence	1994 – 1996
13	12	Correspondence	1997 – 1998
13	13	Correspondence	1999 – 2000

Series VI: Newspaper Clippings 1930 – 2000

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
14	1	Newspaper Clippings	1930 – 1949
14	2	Newspaper Clippings	1950 – 1979
14	3	Newspaper Clippings	1980 – 1989
14	4	Newspaper Clippings	1990 – 1999
14	5	Newspaper Clippings	2000 – 2015
14	6	Newspaper Clippings	n.d.

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Appendix A: Artists

- Albrektson, Al
- Altwater, Catherine Tharp
- Ambrose, Gail
- Armstrong, Gail
- Bach, Stefan
- Baldwin, Shirley
- Barber, Jillian
- Belt, Timothy R.
- Bertoni, Christina M.
- Blake, David R.
- Boghossian, Joan T.
- Bourbonnais, Audrey
- Brennan, Michael
- Bucci, Ralph Anthony
- Caddell, Foster
- Calabro, Richard
- Cardin, John
- Caserta, Alexander
- Caswell, Sally
- Causey, Janice S.
- Ccopacatty
- Christianson, Elaine
- Cianfarani, Teresa Castallo
- Clarke, David
- Cooper, Coralie
- Corbat, Christiane
- Cornell, Meredith Wildes
- Cushman, Robinson
- Dalenius, Marjory
- Dawson, Burl J. Jr.
- Defosses, Diane
- Donner, Rose
- Dugan, Moi
- Dugdale, Ruth
- Dunn, Daniel G.
- Fadl, Susan
- Farrar, Doris A.
- Finelli, Raymond
- Finne, Mark L.
- Flores, Anne
- Fraenkel, Richard
- Gilroy, William G.
- Green, Barbara Loescher
- Grosvenor, Richard
- Haggerty, Dennis M.
- Hale, Lillian Boynton
- Haney, Mary C.
- Haring, Cheri
- Harvey, Peter
- Heusen, Terry Van
- Hill, Alison
- Hodgson, Lucy
- Holliday, Ardis S.
- Housberg, Paul
- House, Mildred
- Howell, Lynn A.
- Hoyt, Norris D.
- Hyland, Daniel
- Kasper, Roxann
- Kelman, Maureen
- Ketchum, Wendy
- Kolyer, Anne O'Neill
- Kramer, Reuben
- Ladd, Thomas
- LaRiviere, Cordelia
- Leone, Anne
- Leviten, Riva
- Lewis, K. Richmond
- Lins-Morstadt, Juan
- Lipietz, Aaron
- Lofton, Ramsey
- MacDowell, Debra
- Malik, Marlene
- Mason-Grose, Helen
- Mathews, Freda
- Maxey, Madolin
- Mazzone, Michael
- Newman, Howard
- Newsome, Allison
- Nikolenko, Nikolay
- O'Connell, Marian L.
- O'Malley, Thomas P.
- Oppersdorff, Mathias
- Pagh, Barbara
- Parker, Bart
- Parker, Dick
- Petrie, Sylvia Spencer
- Preble, Merry
- Protich, Bata
- Pugh, Lorena
- Putman, Antonia Tyz
- Robinson, Alan James
- Rohm, Robert
- Ronnquist, Solveig
- Rubenstein, Howard
- Saywell, Marcie
- Schell, Helen
- Shapleigh, Louis
- Shartle, Len
- Shaw, Susan
- Shotwell, Kenneth E.
- Smayda, Norma
- Solari, Elvira
- Spring, Robert E.
- Stanley, Lane Prutzman
- Sutphen, Mary L.
- Surdut, Lori R.
- Swanson, Nancy
- Sylvia, Louis
- Tihansky, Theodore
- Watkins, James
- Wayland-Smith, Sarah
- Whalen, Cynthia
- Wilczek, Ronald O.
- Williams, Clifford
- Williams, Margaret Prince
- Williams, Ralph E.
- Worden, F. G.
- Worden, Kay
- Wright, Amanda