



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the San Francisco Women Artists
Records, 1925-1999, in the Archives of American Art**

by Anna Rimel

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the
Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	San Francisco Women Artists.
Title:	San Francisco Women Artists records
Dates:	1925-1999
Quantity:	15.5 linear feet
Abstract:	The San Francisco Women Artists records measure 15.5 linear feet, date from 1925 to 1999, and include administrative records, correspondence, membership files, exhibition files, inventory records, printed material, twenty scrapbooks, photographs, eight photograph albums, and two motion picture film reels.
Language:	Collection is in English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Pam Foley, president of the San Francisco Women Artists donated the records in 1999.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2015 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented accelerated processing tactics when possible to provide access to more of our collections. For this collection, accelerated processing included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Ownership & Literary Rights

The San Francisco Women Artists records are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is one of California's oldest arts organizations, dating its founding to 1887 as the Sketch Club. At that time, members met monthly to share and critique one another's work and

to travel together on sketching trips. After the great earthquake in 1906 destroyed the club's headquarters, the group floundered and reorganized and merged with other organizations that also included men. By 1925, however, a core group of women broke away and formed the San Francisco Society of Women Artists. The SFWA's founding mission was "... the study and furtherance of all interests common to the arts both graphic and plastic ... and to support causes neglected by other art organizations in the Bay Area." Early members include Alice B. Chittenden, Helen Hyde, Matilda Lotz, Clara Taggart McChesney, M. Evelyn McCormick, Dora Williams, and Eva Almond Withrow. Other members included Marcelle Labaudt, Dorr Bothwell, Claire Falkenstein, Ruth Asawa, Nell Sinton, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Jo Hansen, Emmy Lou Packard, Eleanore Rappe, Ruth Armer, Barbara Spring, Beth Van Hoesen and Dorothy Winslade.

The Society held its first exhibition in 1926. In 1932, Frida Kahlo's painting, *Frieda and Diego Rivera*, was shown at the "Sixth Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists" and was the first public showing of Kahlo's work. In 1946 the organization shortened its name to the San Francisco Women Artists.

In 1976 the SFWA and executive director Marcelle Labaudt were commended in a Senate Resolution for "outstanding contributions to the cultural enhancement of the City of San Francisco." In 1983 the SFWA procured a gallery at 451 Hayes Street, which provided exhibition space for members, as well as an art rental program. In 1985 the gallery moved to 370 Hayes Street. The SFWA celebrated its centennial in 1994 with an exhibition including work of many past members.

This organization continues to host monthly themed juried shows and is dedicated to encouraging and promoting the work of women artists.

Scope and Content Note

The San Francisco Women Artists records measure 15.5 linear feet and date from 1925 to 1999. The activities of the SFWA are documented through administrative records, correspondence, membership files, exhibition files, inventory records, printed material, twenty scrapbooks, photographs, eight photograph albums, and two motion picture film reels.

Administrative records include daily journals and publicity materials, historical materials and founding documents, meeting minutes and agendas, artist council and committee meetings, and member and patron surveys. Also found within administrative records are materials on Marcelle Labaudt, SFWA Executive Secretary then Executive Director for many years, including original film footage and sound recordings for a career retrospective film project. Correspondence is with potential donors and patrons, board members, members, and artists. Membership files contain ledgers of paid memberships, lists of dropped members, membership applications and rosters, membership biographies, renewals and statistics, and membership directories.

Exhibition files contain price lists and display placards, slides and photographs, and printed materials relating to shows and exhibitions presented by various SFWA members and cooperating organizations, including the San Francisco Art Institute. Shows include "Celebration of International Women" (1991), "The Paintings of Dorothy Winslade" (1994), annual juried SFWA shows and emerging artists exhibitions (1947-circa 1994), "Art of Susan A. Whitney Exhibit and Silent Auction" (1997), and "Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), among others.

Inventory records contain artist inventory cards noting various artwork and exhibitions. Printed material includes books, SFWA bulletins, SFWA calendars, clippings, and exhibition printed materials, such as announcements, brochures, and catalogs. Twenty scrapbooks document the SFWA through clippings, exhibition documentation, photographs, biographies, and annotations. Eight photograph albums depict exhibitions and shows, artwork and artists. Also found within photographs are slides, negatives, and loose photographs depicting works of art, gallery and receptions, and meetings.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 8 series:

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1925-circa 1998 (6.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-6, FC 17-18)
Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1998 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 6-7)
Series 3: Membership Files, 1925-circa 1998 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 7-8)
Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1947-circa 1998 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 8-9)
Series 5: Inventory Records, circa 1974-circa 1985 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 9-10)
Series 6: Printed Material, 1926-1999 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 10-11, 16)
Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1925-circa 1990s (2.7 linear feet; Boxes 11-13, 15)
Series 8: Photographs 1970-circa 1990s (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 13-14, 16)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art--Societies, etc.--California--San Francisco

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures (visual works)
Photograph albums
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

Labaudt, Marcelle, 1892-1987
San Francisco Art Institute
Whitney, Susan A.
Windslade, Dorothy

Occupations:

Women artists--California--San Francisco

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1925-circa 1998

6.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-6, FC 17-18

Administrative records include a wide variety of materials documenting the organization's general administrative, financial, and operating affairs; founding and history; events; board, council, and committee activities; and membership information. Also found are biographical materials on Marcelle Labaudt, long-time member and executive director of the SFWA. Within the files concerning Labault is material documenting a film project about Labault by Marlana Beckman, which includes film and sound recordings.

This series is arranged by functions, activities, and subjects.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Annual Reports, 1946-1947
1	2-5	Artist Council, circa 1992-1997
1	6-7	Committees, 1992-circa 1998
1	8	Daily Journal, 1987
1	9	Daily Journal, circa 1987
1	10	Daily Journal, 1996-1997
1	11	Daily Journal, 1997
1	12	Daily Journal, 1997-1998
1	13	Directories, 1949-1955
1	14	Events, "Fun For Funds," circa 1966-1968
1	15	Events, Help Save Our Gallery, 1995
1	16	Events, International Women's Day Luncheon, 1992-1994
1	17	Events, San Francisco Annual Arts Festival, circa 1977
1	18	Events, SFWA and KQED Channel 9 Pledge Night, circa 1996-1998
1	19	Financial Files, Income and Expense Reports, circa 1992-1998
1	20	Financial Files, Marketing and Budget Plans, 1992
1	21	Financial Files, Sales Tax Reports, 1990-1993
1	22-27	Financial Files, Treasurer's Reports, 1960-1997
1	28-31	Founding Documents, Constitution, By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation, circa 1940s-circa 1970s
1	32	Gallery Comment Book, circa 1995 Gallery Operations
1	33	Bell, Curtis and Snider Fine Art Planning Proposal, 1994
1	34	Brochures, New, 1994
1	35	Gallery Leasing and Usage Contract, 1976-1985
1	36	Guest Book, circa 1985

Box	Folder	
		Gallery Operations
2	1	Job Search, Gallery Manager, circa 1991-1992
2	2-3	Outside Receptions and Gallery Rentals, circa 1986-1991
2	4	Ordering Guest Books, circa 1990s
2	5	Receiving Book, Exhibitions, 1982-1983
2	6	Supplies, Ordering Invitations, circa 1990s
2	7	Supplies, Short-Run Labels, Inc., circa 1994
2	8	Supplies, Stationery, circa 1994
2	9	Website, 1996-1997
2	10-27	General Administrative Records, 1925-1951
Box	Folder	
3	1-24	General Administrative Records, circa 1946-1977
Box	Folder	
4	1-25	General Administrative Records, circa 1975-circa 1990s
Box	Folder	
5	1-10	General Administrative Records, circa 1990-circa 1994
5	11-12	Hayes Valley Merchants Association, circa 1995-1996
		History of SFWA
5	14-18	Biographies, circa 1990-circa 1998
5	19	Booklet, circa 1997
5	20	Copies of Clippings, circa 1990s
5	21	Dorr Bothwell Lecture, "SF Art Institute Lecture," circa 1996 <i>2 cassette tapes; Includes paper notes and additional description.</i>
5	22-24	General History of SFWA, circa 1930-1996
5	25	Obituaries, circa 1991-1998
5	26	Radio Program, "KPFA-FM Heritage Program" Sound Recording, circa 1989 <i>1 cassette tape; Descriptive note included.</i>
5	27	Radio Program, "SFWA on KALW," circa 1998 <i>1 cassette tape</i>
5	28	Video Recording, "Art and Music: Everybody's Angels," circa 1998 <i>1 videocassette (VHS); Descriptive note included.</i>
Box	Folder	
		Marcelle Labaudt
6	1	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Information, circa 1980s
6	2	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Film Reels, circa 1980s <i>2 film reels; 16 mm</i>

Motion picture film reels stored separately in film cans numbered FC 17-18.

6	3-5	"Marcell Labaudt Film" Materials, Sound Recordings, circa 1980s <i>6 sound tape reels</i>
6	6	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Sound Recordings, circa 1980s <i>3 cassette tapes</i> Cassette tapes may be copies of sound reels.
6	7	Printed Material, 1976-1981
6	8	Loose Clippings Scrapbook, circa 1980s
6	9	Slides, Carousel I: "Attic Reception, Labaudt Slides and Festivals," circa 1970s
6	10	Slides, Carousel II: "Lucien Labaudt's Reception Anniversary," circa 1970s
6	11	Slides, Carousel III: "Lucien Show, Etc.," circa 1970s
6	12	Marcelle Labaudt Scholarship Fund, circa 1987-1996
6	13-16	Meetings, circa 1992-1998
6	17	Miscellaneous Research, Women Artists, circa 1990s
6	18-19	Officers and Directors, circa 1945-circa 1990s
6	20	Presidents' Talks, 1992-1998
6	21-24	Publicity, circa 1951-circa 1994
6	25	Rental Gallery of SFWA, 1992-1995
6	26-31	Surveys and Questionnaires, 1990-1998

Box

FC 17-18 2 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 6, folder 2, circa 1980s
2 film reels; 16 mm

Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1998

0.7 linear feet; Boxes 6-7

Correspondence is with donors and patrons, artists and members, board members, SFWA President Stefanie Steinberg, and others. Additional correspondence is found in Series 1.

Box	Folder	
6	32	Potential Donors and Patrons, circa 1996
6	33	Stefanie Steinberg, 1975-1976
6	34	General, 1931-1932
Box	Folder	
7	1-10	General, 1931-1997
7	11-12	Donor Thank You Notes, 1993-1998
7	13	to Irene Pattinson, 1980-1981
7	14	to the Board from Members, circa 1995-1997

Series 3: Membership Files, 1925-circa 1998

1.5 linear feet; Boxes 7-8

Membership files include rosters, renewals, directories, statistics, and applications, dropped members lists, printed membership applications, a letter for overdue membership, as well as two ledgers of paid memberships.

Box	Folder	
7	15	Dropped Members, 1980-1981
7	16	Ledger, Paid Memberships, 1981
7	17	Ledger, Paid Memberships, 1983
7	18	Letter for Overdue Membership, 1996
7	19-28	Membership Applications, circa 1979-circa 1986

Box	Folder	
8	1-9	Membership Applications, circa 1984-1998
8	10-11	Member Biographies, circa 1998
8	12-14	Membership Directory, 1975-1997
8	15	Membership Renewals, 1994-1995
8	16-28	Membership Rosters, 1925-1998
8	29	Membership Statistics, 1947-1949
8	30	Old Membership Applications, circa 1992-circa 1996

Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1947-circa 1998

0.7 linear feet; Boxes 8-9

Exhibition files are incomplete and contain announcements, photographs and slides, catalogs, notes and correspondence. Files are found for "The Paintings of Dorothy Winslade" (1994), "Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), "Annual SFWA Emerging Artists Show" (1988-1994), and "International Women" (1997), among many others. Also found are exhibition lists, price lists, and placards.

Box	Folder	
8	31	Exhibition Lists and Price Lists, circa 1980s-1994
8	32	Exhibition Placards, circa 1980s-circa 1990s

Box	Folder	
9	1	Annual San Francisco Women Artists, Jurors and Jury Ballots (circa 1947-1966), circa 1947-1956
9	2	"Celebration of International Women" (1991), circa 1991
9	3	"A Woman's Vision" (1992), 1992
9	4-7	"Annual SFWA Emerging Artists Show" (1985-1994), circa 1984-circa 1994
9	8	"The Paintings of Dorothy Winslade" (1994), 1994-1996
9	9-10	"SFWA Centennial Show" (1994), 1992-1995

9	11	"We Are All Connected" (1995), 1995
9	12	"SFWA California Artists Juried Exhibition" (1995), 1994-1995
9	13	"125th Anniversary San Francisco Art Institute" (1996), 1996
9	14-17	"Art of Susan A. Whitney, Exhibit and Silent Auction" (1997), circa 1980-circa 1997
9	18-19	"Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), circa 1996
9	20	"International Women" (1997), 1996-1997
9	21	"Breast Cancer Awareness Art Show" (circa 1998), circa 1998

Series 5: Inventory Records, circa 1974-circa 1985

0.4 linear feet; Boxes 9-10

This series contains artist inventory cards noting artists, some artwork, and some exhibitions.

Inventory records are arranged in general alphabetical order and grouped to maintain the order in which they were found.

Box	Folder	
9	22	A-B, circa 1974-1985
9	23	B-C, circa 1974-1985
9	24	C-E, circa 1974-1985
9	25	F-G, circa 1974-1985
9	26	G-I, circa 1974-1985
9	27	J-L, circa 1974-1985
9	28	M, circa 1974-1985
9	29	A-E, circa 1974-1985
9	30	F-K, circa 1974-1985
9	31	Q-S, circa 1974-1985

Box	Folder	
10	1	S-T, circa 1974-1985
10	2	U-W, circa 1974-1985
10	3	W-Z, circa 1974-1985
10	4	L-R, circa 1974-1985
10	5	S-Z, Miscellaneous, circa 1974-1985
10	6	Miscellaneous, circa 1974-1985
10	7	Drop-Outs and Deceased, circa 1974-1985

Series 6: Printed Material, 1926-1999

1.5 linear feet; Boxes 10-11, 16

Printed materials include calendars, clippings, exhibition announcements, brochures and catalogs, general exhibition materials, general printed materials, and two books.

Box	Folder	
10	8	Book, <u>The Development of Modern Art in Northern California: Part I</u> , 1978
10	9	Book, <u>The Development of Modern Art in Northern California: Part II</u> , 1981
10	10-20	Bulletins, 1926-1999
10	21	Calendars, San Francisco Women Artists, 1969-1972 Oversized calendars housed in Box 16.
10	22-29	Clippings, circa 1930s-circa 1996
10	30-32	Exhibition Announcements, 1970-1996
10	33	Exhibition Brochures, circa 1975-1989

Box	Folder	
11	1	Exhibition Brochures, circa 1975-1989
11	2-9	Exhibition Catalogs, 1933-1998
11	10-15	General Exhibition Materials, circa 1950-circa 1990s
11	16	General Printed Material, circa 1949-1992 Oversized material housed in Box 16.

Box	Folder	
16	1	Oversized Calendars, San Francisco Women Artists, 1972
16	2	Oversized General Printed Material, 1963-1986

Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1925-circa 1990s

2.7 linear feet; Boxes 11-13, 15

Twenty scrapbooks (bound and unbound) contain clippings and exhibition materials, such as announcements, photographs, some notes, and biographies.

Scrapbooks are arranged in chronological order.

Box	Folder	
11	17-18	Scrapbook 1, 1925-1941
11	19	Scrapbook 2, circa 1920s-circa 1950s
11	20-23	Scrapbook 3, circa 1969-1970
11	24	Scrapbook 4, circa 1970-1971

Box	Folder	
12	1-2	Scrapbook 4, circa 1970-1971
12	3-4	Scrapbook 5, circa 1971-1973
12	5	Scrapbook 6, circa 1971-1973
12	6-8	Scrapbook 7, circa 1973-1975
12	9-10	Scrapbook 8, circa 1975-1976

12	11-15	Scrapbook 9, 1979-1983
12	16-17	Scrapbook 10, circa 1983-1985
12	18-21	Scrapbook 11, circa 1983-1990
12	22-23	Scrapbook 12, circa 1991-1994

Box	Folder	
13	1-4	Scrapbook 13, "Biographies, 100 Years of Women in the Arts," circa 1994
13	5	Scrapbook 14, circa 1990s
13	6	Scrapbook 15, circa 1990s
13	7-10	Scrapbook 16, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1960s-circa 1990s
13	11-12	Scrapbook 17, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1970s-rirca 1990s
13	13-15	Scrapbook 18, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1991-1995

Box	
15	Oversized Scrapbook 19, circa 1927-1940
15	Oversized Scrapbook 20, 1977-1978

Series 8: Photographs, circa 1970-circa 1990s

1.5 linear feet; Boxes 13-14, 16

Eight bound and unbound photograph albums, photographs, negatives, and slides depict artwork, exhibitions, galleries, events, artists at work, and images for an exhibition catalog.

Box	Folder	
13	16	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1990s
13	17-19	Photographs of Shows, circa 1970s-1992 Oversized photograph housed in Box 16.
13	20	Photographs and Negatives for Catalog, circa 1990s
13	21	Slides of Gallery and Receptions, circa 1970-1990
13	22	Slides of SFWA General Meeting, 4-20-97, circa 1997
13	23	Slides of Ming Wu Demo, circa 1996
13	24-27	Photograph Album 1, Unbound, 1976-1977

Box	Folder	
14	1-2	Photograph Album 2, Unbound, circa 1980s
14	3-6	Photograph Album 3, Unbound, circa 1987-circa 1989
14	7-12	Photograph Album 4, Unbound, Exhibitions, circa 1989
14	13-16	Photograph Album 5, Unbound, Exhibitions, 1991-1992
14	17-20	Photograph Album 6, Unbound, Exhibitions, circa 1991

Box

16		Oversized Photograph Album 7, Bound, 1996-1998
16	4	Oversized Photograph Album 8, Loose Pages, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
16	3	Oversized Photograph of Shows, circa 1970s-circa 1990s