



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake Papers, 1915-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received Federal support from the Collections Care Initiative Fund, administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

2020/08/11

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake papers
Date:	1915-1975
Identifier:	AAA.blakeliz
Creator:	Blake, Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake papers measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1975. Found is correspondence, material related to The Portrait Class taught by Cecilia Beaux and Luis F. Mora, scattered writings and an interview of Blake by Kitty Gelhorn, printed material, and a mixed-media scrapbook.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Elizabeth S. Blake donated her mother's papers to the Archives of American Art in 1987.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake papers, 1915-1975. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake (1894-1981) was a portrait painter and arts administrator active in New York City.

Known as Betty, Blake began her study of art at the Art Students League of New York. Her goal was to study with portrait painter Cecilia Beaux, who was convinced by Blake to come out of retirement when Blake offered to form a new class. Blake then directed and managed The Portrait Class, which was held at the Gainsborough Studios, from 1918 to 1927. Largely, the classes were attended by society ladies due to the high (\$250) cost of tuition. Due to Beaux's work in Europe, Luis F. Mora taught the class in the early 1920s.

Blake married William Harold Blake in 1927 and together they had a daughter. She died in 1981 in Wareham, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake papers measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1975. Found is correspondence, material related to The Portrait Class taught by Cecilia Beaux and Luis F. Mora, scattered writings and an interview of Blake by Kitty Gelhorn, printed material, and a mixed-media scrapbook.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection, the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women arts administrators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Beaux, Cecilia, 1855-1942
- Mora, F. Luis (Francis Luis), 1874-1940

Occupations:

- Art students -- New York (State) -- New York
- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Portrait painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake Papers, 1915-1975

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of sixty-four letters, postcards, and notes from Cecilia Beaux; letters about Beaux from James B. Drinker, Cecil Drinker, Anna Murphy, Ernesta Drinker Barlow, Lucy Taggart, Rosamond Gilder, and Kingdon Gould, Jr.

Material originating from The Portrait Class includes handwritten directions to the Gainsborough Studios, applications, a ledger including financial information and lists of models, and printed material such as blank stationery.

An oral history of Blake, conducted by Kitty Gelhorn in 1974 for Columbia University, is entitled "Memoir of Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake (Mrs. William H. Blake)."

A mixed media scrapbook compiled by Blake contains material from The Portrait Class. Found are letters and invitations, reproductions of works of art, clippings, catalogs, photographs, and Blake's notes from lectures by artists in New York, 1916-1918. Of note are scattered photographs of The Portrait Class students and of Luis F. Mora. Blake's notes of artist lectures include those given by: J. Alden-Weir, George Bellows, Gutson Borglum, George de Forest Brush, Bryson Burroughs, Paul Dougherty, Philip Hale, Hank Hawk, Robert Henri, Paul Manship, Joseph Pennell, Albert Stermer, and August Thomas among others.

Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1	Barlow, Ernesta, 1944
Box 1, Folder 2-4	Beaux, Cecilia, 1919-1929
Box 1, Folder 5	Callard, David, 1975
Box 1, Folder 6	Clark, Emabel (to Cecilia Beaux), circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 7	Drinker, Cecil, 1942
Box 1, Folder 8	Drinker, J. B., 1919-1921
Box 1, Folder 9	Gilder, Rosamond, 1948
Box 1, Folder 10	Gould, Mrs. Kingdon and Jr., circa 1920, 1981
Box 1, Folder 11	Lamb, Aimee, 1924
Box 1, Folder 12	Mora, Luis F., 1920-1921
Box 1, Folder 13	Murphy, Anna, 1936-1950

Box 1, Folder 14	Taggart, Lucy, 1944
Box 1, Folder 15	The Portrait Class, Directions to Studio, circa 1919
Box 1, Folder 16	The Portrait Class, Applications and Receipts, 1923-1926
Box 1, Folder 17	The Portrait Class, Financial Ledger, 1921-1927
Box 1, Folder 18	The Portrait Class, Printed Material, circa 1919
Box 1, Folder 19	Auction Receipt, 1940
Box 1, Folder 20	Diary, Fragment, 1922
Box 1, Folder 21-22	"Memoir of Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake (Mrs. William H. Blake)," Interview by Kitty Gelhorn, 1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 1	Clippings, 1921-1974
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1919-1935
Box 2, Folder 3	Scrapbook, 1915-circa 1920s

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