



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Guild Art Gallery Records,  
circa 1933-1937, in the Archives of American Art

Eden Orelove

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

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Guild Art Gallery records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.guilart
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1933-1937
<b>Extent:</b>	1.2 Linear Feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Guild Art Gallery
<b>Language:</b>	English  Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the Guild Art Gallery measure 1.2 linear feet and date from circa 1933-1937. Operating in New York City between 1935-1937, the gallery was founded by artists Margaret Lefranc (also known as Margaret Schoonover) and Anna Walinska. Scattered records of the gallery include correspondence, including some with artists, exhibition files, financial records, a scrapbook and other printed materials, a drawing by Anna Walinska, and photographs of artwork and the gallery.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Margaret Lefranc (also known as Margaret Schoonover), co-founder of the Guild Art Gallery, donated the gallery records to the Archives of American Art in 1981.

### Related Materials

Also found among the holdings of the Archives of American Art are the Anna Walinska papers.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Eden Orelove in 2016, with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

### Preferred Citation

Guild Art Gallery records, circa 1933-1937. 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Guild Art Gallery 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Guild Art Gallery was founded in 1935 by artists Anna Walinska and Margaret Lefranc (also known as Margaret Schoonover) and operated at 37 West 57th Street in New York City until 1937. Arshile Gorky held his first New York solo exhibition there. In 1935, the founders were quoted in *Art Digest* as stating that the new gallery "plans to exhibit, without charge, the work of contemporary artists, whether known or unknown; to develop, through a receptive audience, a better understanding of the creative expression and the problems of creative expression and the problems of contemporary society; and to illustrate the relationship of painting with the other arts." The gallery's opening exhibition featured both Walinska and Lefranc, as well as Boris Aronson, Don Forbes, Henry Major, Rosa Newman, Philip Reisman, Ben-Shmuel, Ary Stillman, and, notably, Arshile Gorky.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of the Guild Art Gallery measure 1.2 linear feet and date from circa 1933-1937. Operating in New York City between 1935-1937, the gallery was founded by artists Margaret Lefranc (also known as Margaret Schoonover) and Anna Walinska. Scattered records of the gallery include correspondence, including some with artists, exhibition files, financial records, a scrapbook and other printed materials, a drawing by Anna Walinska, and photographs of artwork and the gallery.

Correspondence is with artists, business associates, and museums. Correspondents include Alfred H. Barr, Alfred C. Barnes, Saul Baizerman, Cincinnati Art Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Paul Feeley, Arshile Gorky, Chaim Gross, Jean Liberte, Museum of Modern Art, Lloyd Raymond Ney, Philip Reisman, Theodore Roszak, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. The collection also contains financial materials such as account ledgers, receipt journals, bank records, sales invoices, and insurance forms, as well as printed material consisting of a scrapbook, newspaper and magazine clippings, calendars of art events, and journals. Additionally, there is a pen and ink drawing by Anna Walinska and black and white copy prints of artwork and original snphotos of the gallery.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1935-1937 (11 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Exhibition records (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Financial records, 1935-1937 (6 folders; Box 1)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1935-1937 (15 folders, Boxes 1-2)

- Series 5: Artwork, circa 1935 (1 folder, Box 2)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1933-1937 (3 folders; Box 2)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Women art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Women painters -- New York (State) -- New York

### Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks

### Names:

Baizerman, Saul, 1889-1957  
Barnes, Albert C. (Albert Coombs), 1872-1951  
Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981  
Cincinnati Art Museum  
Corcoran Gallery of Art  
Feeley, Paul, 1910-1966  
Gorky, Arshile, 1904-1948  
Gross, Chaim, 1904-1991  
Lefranc, Margaret  
Liberte, Jean, 1896-1965  
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)  
Ney, Lloyd Raymond, 1893-1964 or 5  
Reisman, Philip, 1904-  
Roszak, Theodore, 1907-1981  
Walinska, Anna  
Whitney Museum of American Art

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1935-1937

*11 folders (Box 1)*

Correspondence is with artists, business associates, and museums.

Box 1, Folder 1-11      Correspondence, 1935-1937

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## Series 2: Exhibition records, 1935-1937

*2 folders (Box 1)*

Exhibition records include price lists, notes, checklists, press releases, announcements, and catalogs.

Box 1, Folder 12-13      Exhibition Records, 1935-1937

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## Series 3: Financial records, 1935-1937

### *6 folders (Box 1)*

Scattered financial records include invoices, legal records, bank records, receipts, an accounting notebook, and a ledger.

Box 1, Folder 14	Invoices, Insurance Records, and Other Legal Documents, 1936-1937
Box 1, Folder 15	Bank Records, 1935-1937
Box 1, Folder 16-18	Receipt Books, 1935-1937
Box 1, Folder 19	Business Account Notebooks and Ledger, 1936-1937

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## Series 4: Printed materials, 1935-1937

### *0.5 Linear Feet (Boxes 1-2)*

Printed materials include one dismantled scrapbook, clippings, and printed journal articles.

Box 1, Folder 20-23	Scrapbook, 1935-1937
Box 1, Folder 24	Calendars of Arts Events, 1935-1937
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Clippings
Box 1, Folder 27-28	<i>American Magazine of Art</i> , 1936-1937
Box 1, Folder 29	<i>Art News</i> , 1936-1937
Box 1, Folder 30	<i>Coronet</i> , 1937 August
Box 1, Folder 31-32	<i>Parnassus</i> , 1935-1936
Box 2, Folder 1-2	<i>Parnassus</i> , 1936-1937

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## Series 5: Artwork, circa 1935

*1 folder (Box 2)*

Artwork consists of one drawing by Anna Walinska.

Box 2, Folder 3

Pen and Ink Drawing by Anna Walinska, circa 1935

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## Series 6: Photographs, circa 1933-1937

*3 folders (Box 2)*

There are photographs of artwork and snapshots of the gallery.

Box 2, Folder 4-5      Of Artwork, circa 1933-1937

Box 2, Folder 6      Of Gallery, 1935-1937

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