



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the National Association  
of Women Artists Records, 1926-1971,  
in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	National Association of Women Artists records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.natiasso
<b>Date:</b>	1926-1971
<b>Extent:</b>	1.3 linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	National Association of Women Artists (U.S.)
<b>Language:</b>	English  The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the National Association of Women Artists measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1926 to 1971. Found are administrative and membership records from the 1960s, exhibition records, printed material, and three scrapbooks. The bulk of the collection consists of catalogs and correspondence regarding the Association's annual exhibition from 1926 to 1971.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Printed material, 1926-1971, donated by Jane Gray, historian for the NAWA, 1971. Scrapbooks donated by the NAWA, 1981, and the traveling exhibition records donated by NAWA, 1980.

### Separated Materials

Additional records on the National Association of Women Artists can be found at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Zimmerli Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Ryerson & Burnham Libraries, Frick Art Reference Library, New York Public Library, Film and Fine Art Library, and Library of Congress.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and described in a finding aid by Kelly Overstreet in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

National Association of Women Artists records, 1926-1971. 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 National Association of 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

The National Association of Women Artists (NAWA) was founded in 1889 and remains the oldest women's fine arts organization in the country.

Founded under the name the Woman's Art Club of New York, the National Association of Women Artists established a space for women to exhibit, create work, and learn about art. Artists Anita Ashley, Adele Frances Bedell, Elizabeth S. Cheever, Grace Fitz-Randolph, and Edith Mitchill Preilwitz established the organization in 1889. Also known as the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors from 1913, NAWA adopted its current name in 1941.

NAWA's annual exhibition of member artworks gained recognition for the association. The organization also promoted membership by sending out traveling exhibitions across the world. The National Association of Women Artist currently has hundreds of members from all across the United States.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of the National Association of Women Artists measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1926 to 1971. Found are administrative and membership records from the 1960s, exhibition records, printed material, and three scrapbooks. The bulk of the collection consists of catalogs and correspondence regarding the Association's annual exhibition from 1926 to 1971.

NAWA's administrative and membership records includes general writings and notes, board meeting notes, constitution and by-laws, mailing lists, and membership forms from 1963 to 1964.

Exhibition records date from 1926 to 1971 and are not complete. Files may include artist and price lists, catalogs and printed material, correspondence, itineraries, and photographs. Notable correspondents and institutions included are Mildred Baker, Vernon Bobbitt, the Butler Institute of American Art, Sylvester Jerry, Grace Morley, the Museum of New Mexico, the Newark Museum, and the Texas Fine Arts Association.

Additional printed materials include a certificate of community service, press clippings, press releases, and printed material from other art-related sources, such as newsletters and exhibition catalogs.

Three mixed media scrapbooks date from 1951 to 1963. Scrapbooks include photographs, clippings, and exhibition catalogs.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Administrative and Membership Records, 1947-1970 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)

- Series 2: Exhibition Records, 1926-1971 (Box 1; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1957-1967 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1951-1963 (BVs 2-4; 0.3 linear feet)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Cultures:

Art -- Societies, etc.  
Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Traveling exhibitions

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Scrapbooks

Names:

Baker, Mildred, 1905-  
Bobbitt, Vernon L., 1911-1992  
Butler Institute of American Art  
Jerry, Sylvester, 1904-1990  
Morley, Grace, 1900-1985  
Museum of New Mexico  
National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors (U.S.)  
Newark Museum  
Texas Fine Arts Association

Occupations:

Women artists -- United States

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Administrative and Membership Records, 1947-1970

*0.2 linear feet (Box 1)*

Administrative and membership records include general administrative writings and notes; board meeting notes; a copy of NAWA's constitution and by-laws; exhibitor mailing lists; and membership forms from 1963 to 1964. Notable artists whose membership forms are in this series include Clare Ferriter, Elizabeth P. Korn, Annie Lenney, Aimee Schweig, and Rawley Silver.

Series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Administrative Writings and Notes, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Board Meeting Notes, 1956-1957
Box 1, Folder 3	Constitution and By-Laws, 1970
Box 1, Folder 4	Exhibitor Mailing Lists, 1947-ca. 1967
Box 1, Folder 5	Membership Forms (A-Co), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 6	Membership Forms (Cr-Ha), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 7	Membership Forms (He-Le), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 8	Membership Forms (Lu-N), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 9	Membership Forms (O-Rot), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 10	Membership Forms (Row-S), 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 11	Membership Forms (Wa-Wu), 1963-1964

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## Series 2: Exhibition Records, 1926-1971

### *0.7 linear feet (Box 1)*

Files regarding NAWA's exhibitions date from 1926 to 1971 and are not complete. Files may include artist and price lists, catalogs, correspondence, itineraries, and 2 photographs. Exhibitions include NAWA's *Annual Exhibition*, and regular traveling shows of watercolors and graphics. Notable people and institutions in the correspondence includes Mildred Baker, Vernon Bobbitt, the Butler Institute of American Art, Sylvester Jerry, Grace Morley, the Museum of New Mexico, the Newark Museum, and the Texas Fine Arts Association.

Series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 12	Artists and Price Lists, ca. 1956-1971
Box 1, Folder 13	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1926-1931
Box 1, Folder 14	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1932-1936
Box 1, Folder 15	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 16	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1939-1941
Box 1, Folder 17	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 18	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 19	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1947
Box 1, Folder 20	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1948-1949
Box 1, Folder 21	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1950-1951
Box 1, Folder 22	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1952-1953
Box 1, Folder 23	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 24	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1956-1957
Box 1, Folder 25	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1958-1959
Box 1, Folder 26	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1960
Box 1, Folder 27	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 28	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 29	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 30	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1967-1968
Box 1, Folder 31	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1969-1970

Box 1, Folder 32	<i>Annual Exhibition</i> Catalogs, 1971
Box 1, Folder 33	"D" and "E" and "F" Traveling Watercolor Exhibitions, Correspondence, 1954-1957
Box 1, Folder 34	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, ca. 1960s
Box 1, Folder 35	Exhibition Itineraries, ca. 1946-ca. 1969
Box 1, Folder 36	"G" Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1957-1960
Box 1, Folder 37	General/Unspecified Exhibition Correspondence, 1951-ca. 1971
Box 1, Folder 38	Photographs, ca. 1962
Box 1, Folder 39	Traveling Graphics Exhibition, Correspondence, 1962-1967
Box 1, Folder 40	Traveling Graphics Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 41	Traveling Graphics Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967-1969
Box 1, Folder 42	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, ca. 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 43	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 44	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1958
Box 1, Folder 45	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1958-1965
Box 1, Folder 46	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1965
Box 1, Folder 47	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 48	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 49	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 50	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 51	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 52	Traveling Watercolor Exhibition, Correspondence, 1967-1968

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## Series 3: Printed Material, 1957-1967

*0.1 linear feet (Box 1)*

Printed materials include a certificate of community service, clippings, press releases, and printed material from other art-related sources, such as newsletters and individual members' exhibition catalogs outside of NAWA.

Series is arranged alphabetically. Additional printed materials may be found in Series 2 and 4.

Box 1, Folder 53	Certificate of Community Service, 1964
Box 1, Folder 54	Press Clippings, 1957-1962
Box 1, Folder 55	Press Clippings, 1963-1967
Box 1, Folder 56	Press Releases, ca. 1960s
Box 1, Folder 57	Printed Material from Other Art-Related Sources, 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 58	Printed Material from Other Art-Related Sources, 1964-1967

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## Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1951-1963

*0.3 linear feet (BVs 2-4)*

Three mixed media scrapbooks date from 1951 to 1963 and include clippings, photographs, exhibition catalogs from NAWA and other institutions. Many clippings have broken off of their original placing in the scrapbooks.

Series is arranged chronologically.

Box BV 2	Scrapbook, 1951-1957
Box BV 3	Scrapbook, 1957-1961
Box BV 4	Scrapbook, 1961-1963

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