



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

National Watercolor Society records

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	National Watercolor Society records
Date:	1920-1995
Identifier:	AAA.natiwate
Creator:	National Watercolor Society (U.S.)
Extent:	3.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1995 by the Society's club historian and secretary Rosemary MacBird. Three additional scrapbooks were donated in 1997 by Society historian Ed Gill.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Art society; Los Angeles, Calif. The California Watercolor Society was founded in Los Angeles in 1920. The organization continued for fifty-five years as the CWS. In 1975 the name was changed to the National Watercolor Society (NWS). In the early years the organization was dominated by members of the California School, the group of West Coast painters whose most prominent representative was Millard Sheets. These artists developed a regionalist style that focused on California landscape and, less frequently, the urban scene. The approach and aesthetic represented by Millard Sheets and others greatly influenced the members of the Society for years, and as a result the organization became increasingly viewed as conservative and even decorative.

Scope and Contents

Articles of incorporation, newsletters, artist's biographies, slides for exhibitions (1980-1990) and rental slides (1990-1995), pamphlets and programs (1954-1995), six scrapbooks (1921-1994) containing printed materials and some with photographs and artists' resumes, three Presidents' books (1922-1995), a guidebook, group portraits from 1949 and 1951, and NWS newsletters documenting the history and members of the National Watercolor Society (formerly the California Watercolor Society).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Watercolor painting -- California
Watercolor painting -- United States

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

California Watercolor Society
Sheets, Millard, 1907-1989

Occupations:

Watercolorists -- California
Watercolorists -- United States

Functions:

Arts organizations