



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### A Finding Aid to the William Edward Norton Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1880, circa 1990, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019  
with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

2018 November 9

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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | William Edward Norton glass plate negatives  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | circa 1880<br>circa 1990   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.nortwill   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Norton, William Edward, 1843-1916  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.42 Linear feet   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The sixty-nine glass plate negatives of marine painter William Edward Norton (1843-1916) measure 0.42 linear feet and date from circa 1880 and include one image of Norton, and images of unidentified women and children, presumably members of Norton's family. Other negatives are of boats and sailing ships or show buildings and river and street scenes; two images are of paintings of ships. Also found is a folder of contact sheets, circa 1990, made from sixty-five of the negatives. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art in 1990 by Vose Galleries of Boston, who received them from William Welcome, a descendant of Norton.

### Available Formats

All of the glass plate negatives, were digitized in 2019 and are available on the Archives of American Art website. Contact sheets were not digitized.

### Processing Information

The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and described in a finding aid by Stephanie Ashley in 2018 and the glass plate negatives were digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

### Preferred Citation

William Edward Norton glass plate negatives, circa 1880, circa 1990. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

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## Biographical / Historical

William Edward Norton (1843-1916) was a Boston born marine painter who studied in France, and settled in London. Norton had two paintings accepted by the Paris Salon, and exhibited at the Royal Academy. He also represented the United States at the International Exposition.

Norton, who was born into a family of shipbuilders, worked as a sailor in his youth and would sketch ships, crew, and seascapes during his free time. He later attended the Lowell Institute and studied under George Innes. Sales of his paintings funded his trip to France where he studied with Antoine Vollon and painted the Normandy coast.

After living in London with his wife, Norton returned to the United States in the early 1890s and lived and worked in New York City until his death.

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## Scope and Contents

The sixty-nine glass plate negatives of marine painter William Edward Norton (1843-1916) measure 0.42 linear feet and date from circa 1880 and include one image of Norton, and images of unidentified women and children, presumably members of Norton's family. Other negatives are of boats and sailing ships or show buildings and river and street scenes; two images are of paintings of ships. Also found is a folder of contact sheets, circa 1990, made from sixty-five of the negatives.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Occupations:

Marine painters -- England

Marine painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: William Edward Norton Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1880, circa 1990

*0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, MMs 55)*

Arrangement: Glass plates are arranged roughly by subject.

Available The glass plate negatives have been digitized in entirety. Contact sheets have not been digitized.

Formats:

Box 1, Folder 1 [Of Norton and Others, circa 1880](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Of Buildings and River and Street Scenes, circa 1880](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [Of Boats and Ships, circa 1880](#)

Folder 2 Contact Sheets of Negatives, circa 1990

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