A Finding Aid to the Glass Plate Negatives of the Provincetown Art Association, 1916, circa 2006, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley
This collection were digitized with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Association
Identifier: AAA.philanth
Date: 1916
circa 2006
Extent: 0.44 Linear feet
0.116 Gigabytes
Creator: Provincetown Art Association
Language: English
Summary: The glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Association measure 0.44 linear feet and 0.116 GB and date from 1916 and include images believed to have been taken for A. J. Philpott's August 1916 Boston Globe article entitled "Biggest Art Colony in the World at Provincetown." In addition to the twelve glass plate images of artists at work in Provincetown, including George Elmer Browne and E. Ambrose Webster, the collection includes the original negative box, a circa 2006 photocopy of Philpott's article, and digital copies of the glass plates.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Eight negatives were donated 2006 by Stephen Borkowski, chair of the Provincetown Art Commission. Borkowski purchased the negatives at a flea market in Boston in 1996 or 1997. He was told they were from the estate of a Boston Globe photographer. Borkowski made the donation in honor of Vivian Bullaudy, friend and colleague who curated an exhibition on Provincetown artists. The additional four negatives were donated in 2008 jointly by Stephen Borkowski, chairman of the Provincetown Art Commission, and the Provincetown Art Association and Museum.

Related Materials
The Archives of American Art also holds the microfilm for the Provincetown Art Association records and photographs, 1914-circa 1975.

Processing Information
The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and a finding aid written by Stephanie Ashley in 2018 and digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.
Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives’ Washington, D.C., Research Center. Use of born-digital records with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use
The glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Association 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.

Biographical / Historical
The Provincetown Art Association was established by artists Gerrit Beneker, Oscar Gieberich, William Halsall, Charles Hawthorne, and E. Ambrose Webster, along with local business men and women, in 1914. By 1916, the town had become a refuge for artists and expatriates from post-World War I Paris and artists from New York, and the association held juried exhibitions, beginning in the summer of 1915. Boston Globe editor A. J. Philpott's article "The Biggest Art Colony in the World," published in August of 1916, cemented Provincetown's reputation.

The Provincetown Art Association continued to expand throughout the twentieth century, and now operates a museum and a school. Provincetown celebrated its 100th anniversary as an art colony in 1999.

Scope and Contents
The glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Association measure 0.44 linear feet and 0.116 GB and date from 1916 and include images believed to have been taken for A. J. Philpott's August 1916 Boston Globe article entitled "Biggest Art Colony in the World at Provincetown. In addition to the twelve glass plate images of artists at work in Provincetown, including George Elmer and E. Ambrose Webster, the collection includes the original negative box, a circa 2006 photocopy of Philpott's article, and digital copies of the glass plates.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged as one series.
• Series 1: Glass Plate Negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony, 1916, circa 2006 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1, MGP 2, 0.116 GB; ER01)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:
Browne, George Elmer, 1871-1946
Philpott, A. J.
Webster, E. Ambrose (Edwin Ambrose), 1869-1935

Functions:
Artist colonies -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown
Container Listing

Series 1: Glass Plate Negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony, 1916, circa 2006

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, MGP 2)
0.116 Gigabytes (ER01)

Glass plates were numbered and labeled as follows:

- 1. Art exhibition town hall
- 2. Woman painting on wharf
- 3. Wharf with gulls and dory
- 4. Painters on wharf
- 5. George Elmer Brown in his studio
- 6. Woman painting in lane
- 7. Woman in painting gear
- 8. Painters on beach
- 9. Painters on wharf
- 10. Painters on wharf
- 11. E. Ambrose Webster paints
- 12. Wharf with gulls and dories

Box 1, Folder 1
Original Negative Box, 1916

Box 1, Folder 2
Copy of Boston Globe Article, circa 2006

Folder ER01
Glass Plate Negatives, Digital Photographs and Document, 2006
0.116 Gigabytes (14 computer files)

Box MGP 2
Glass Plate Negatives, 1916
Image(s)

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