



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Glass Plate Negatives  
of the Provincetown Art Colony, 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.

2018 November 30

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.philanth
<b>Date:</b>	1916 circa 2006
<b>Extent:</b>	0.44 Linear feet 0.116 Gigabytes
<b>Creator:</b>	Provincetown Art Association
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony 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 <i>Boston Globe</i> 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.

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## 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

Glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony, 1916, circa 2006. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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## 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.

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## Scope and Contents

The glass plate negatives of the Provincetown Art Colony 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)

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## 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

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## 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 <i>Boston Globe</i> Article, circa 2006
Folder ER01	Glass Plate Negatives, Digital Photographs and Document, 2006 <i>0.116 Gigabytes (14 computer files)</i>
Box MGP 2	Glass Plate Negatives, 1916 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

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