



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Public Works of Art Project  
articles and exhibition catalog

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Public Works of Art Project articles and exhibition catalog
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.publwork
<b>Date:</b>	1933-1934
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Items ((on partial microfilm reel))
<b>Creator:</b>	Public Works of Art Project Corcoran Gallery of Art United States. Department of the Treasury
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Provenance unknown.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3483 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

PWAP, the first of the New Deal art programs, was established under the Department of the Treasury in December 1933 to assist unemployed artists by enabling them to work on the decoration of non-federal public buildings. Although it lasted only until the following summer, it engaged nearly 4,000 artists in all parts of the country and served as an important precedent for subsequent federal art programs, such as the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration. Edward Bruce was the director of PWAP and Forbes Watson was the advisor.

## Scope and Contents

Two articles by Forbes Watson and one article by Edward Bruce on PWAP, ca. 1934; an address by Edward Bruce on the Project printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1934; an exhibition announcement of the Washington Committee of the PWAP; and an exhibition catalog, NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ART BY THE PUBLIC WORKS OF ART PROJECT, for an exhibition held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1934.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art and state
- Art, Modern
- Federal aid to the arts
- Federal aid to the public welfare
- New Deal, 1933-1939
- Painting, American

Names:

- Bruce, Edward, 1879-1943
- Watson, Forbes, 1880-1960