



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the San Francisco Women Artists
Records, 1925-1999, in the Archives of American Art

Anna Rimel

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the
Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

2015 August 18

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Administrative Records, 1925-circa 1998.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1998.....	8
Series 3: Membership Files, 1925-circa 1998.....	9
Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1947-circa 1998.....	10
Series 5: Inventory Records, circa 1974-circa 1985.....	11
Series 6: Printed Material, 1926-1999.....	12
Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1925-circa 1990s.....	13
Series 8: Photographs, circa 1970-circa 1990s.....	15

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	San Francisco Women Artists records
Identifier:	AAA.sanfrawa
Date:	1925-1999
Extent:	15.5 Linear feet
Creator:	San Francisco Women Artists
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The San Francisco Women Artists records measure 15.5 linear feet, date from 1925 to 1999, and include administrative records, correspondence, membership files, exhibition files, inventory records, printed material, twenty scrapbooks, photographs, eight photograph albums, and two motion picture film reels.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Pam Foley, president of the San Francisco Women Artists donated the records in 1999.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2015 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented accelerated processing tactics when possible to provide access to more of our collections. For this collection, accelerated processing included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use

The San Francisco Women Artists records 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

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is one of California's oldest arts organizations, dating its founding to 1887 as the Sketch Club. At that time, members met monthly to share and critique one another's work and to travel together on sketching trips. After the great earthquake in 1906 destroyed the club's headquarters, the group floundered and reorganized and merged with other organizations that also included men. By 1925, however, a core group of women broke away and formed the San Francisco Society of Women Artists. The SFWA's founding mission was "... the study and furtherance of all interests common to the arts both graphic and plastic ... and to support causes neglected by other art organizations in the Bay Area." Early members include Alice B. Chittenden, Helen Hyde, Matilda Lotz, Clara Taggart McChesney, M. Evelyn McCormick, Dora Williams, and Eva Almond Withrow. Other members included Marcelle Labaudt, Dorr Bothwell, Claire Falkenstein, Ruth Asawa, Nell Sinton, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Jo Hansen, Emmy Lou Packard, Eleanore Rappe, Ruth Armer, Barbara Spring, Beth Van Hoesen and Dorothy Winslade.

The Society held its first exhibition in 1926. In 1932, Frida Kahlo's painting, *Frieda and Diego Rivera*, was shown at the "Sixth Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists" and was the first public showing of Kahlo's work. In 1946 the organization shortened its name to the San Francisco Women Artists.

In 1976 the SFWA and executive director Marcelle Labaudt were commended in a Senate Resolution for "outstanding contributions to the cultural enhancement of the City of San Francisco." In 1983 the SFWA procured a gallery at 451 Hayes Street, which provided exhibition space for members, as well as an art rental program. In 1985 the gallery moved to 370 Hayes Street. The SFWA celebrated its centennial in 1994 with an exhibition including work of many past members.

This organization continues to host monthly themed juried shows and is dedicated to encouraging and promoting the work of women artists.

Scope and Contents

The San Francisco Women Artists records measure 15.5 linear feet and date from 1925 to 1999. The activities of the SFWA are documented through administrative records, correspondence, membership files, exhibition files, inventory records, printed material, twenty scrapbooks, photographs, eight photograph albums, and two motion picture film reels.

Administrative records include daily journals and publicity materials, historical materials and founding documents, meeting minutes and agendas, artist council and committee meetings, and member and patron surveys. Also found within administrative records are materials on Marcelle Labaudt, SFWA Executive Secretary then Executive Director for many years, including original film footage and sound recordings for a career retrospective film project. Correspondence is with potential donors and patrons, board members, members, and artists. Membership files contain ledgers of paid memberships, lists of dropped members, membership applications and rosters, membership biographies, renewals and statistics, and membership directories.

Exhibition files contain price lists and display placards, slides and photographs, and printed materials relating to shows and exhibitions presented by various SFWA members and cooperating organizations, including the San Francisco Art Institute. Shows include "Celebration of International Women" (1991), "The Paintings of Dorothy Windslade" (1994), annual juried SFWA shows and emerging artists exhibitions (1947-circa 1994), "Art of Susan A. Whitney Exhibit and Silent Auction" (1997), and "Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), among others.

Inventory records contain artist inventory cards noting various artwork and exhibitions. Printed material includes books, SFWA bulletins, SFWA calendars, clippings, and exhibition printed materials, such as announcements, brochures, and catalogs. Twenty scrapbooks document the SFWA through clippings, exhibition documentation, photographs, biographies, and annotations. Eight photograph albums depict exhibitions and shows, artwork and artists. Also found within photographs are slides, negatives, and loose photographs depicting works of art, gallery and receptions, and meetings.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 8 series:

- Series 1: Administrative Records, 1925-circa 1998 (6.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-6, FC 17-18)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1998 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 6-7)
- Series 3: Membership Files, 1925-circa 1998 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 7-8)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1947-circa 1998 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 8-9)
- Series 5: Inventory Records, circa 1974-circa 1985 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 9-10)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1926-1999 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 10-11, 16)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1925-circa 1990s (2.7 linear feet; Boxes 11-13, 15)
- Series 8: Photographs 1970-circa 1990s (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 13-14, 16)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Societies, etc. -- California -- San Francisco

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures (visual works)
Photograph albums
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

Labaudt, Marcelle, 1892-1987
San Francisco Art Institute
Whitney, Susan A.
Windslade, Dorothy

Occupations:

Women artists -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1925-circa 1998

6.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-6, FC 17-18)

Administrative records include a wide variety of materials documenting the organization's general administrative, financial, and operating affairs; founding and history; events; board, council, and committee activities; and membership information. Also found are biographical materials on Marcelle Labault, long-time member and executive director of the SFWA. Within the files concerning Labault is material documenting a film project about Labault by Marlana Beckman, which includes film and sound recordings.

This series is arranged by functions, activities, and subjects.

Box 1, Folder 1	Annual Reports, 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 2-5	Artist Council, circa 1992-1997
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Committees, 1992-circa 1998
Box 1, Folder 8	Daily Journal, 1987
Box 1, Folder 9	Daily Journal, circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 10	Daily Journal, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 11	Daily Journal, 1997
Box 1, Folder 12	Daily Journal, 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 13	Directories, 1949-1955
Box 1, Folder 14	Events, "Fun For Funds", circa 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 15	Events, Help Save Our Gallery, 1995
Box 1, Folder 16	Events, International Women's Day Luncheon, 1992-1994
Box 1, Folder 17	Events, San Francisco Annual Arts Festival, circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 18	Events, SFWA and KQED Channel 9 Pledge Night, circa 1996-1998
Box 1, Folder 19	Financial Files, Income and Expense Reports, circa 1992-1998
Box 1, Folder 20	Financial Files, Marketing and Budget Plans , 1992

Box 1, Folder 21	Financial Files, Sales Tax Reports, 1990-1993
Box 1, Folder 22-27	Financial Files, Treasurer's Reports, 1960-1997
Box 1, Folder 28-31	Founding Documents, Constitution, By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation, circa 1940s-circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 32	Gallery Comment Book, circa 1995
Box 1	Gallery Operations
Box 1, Folder 33	Bell, Curtis and Snider Fine Art Planning Proposal, 1994
Box 1, Folder 34	Brochures, New, 1994
Box 1, Folder 35	Gallery Leasing and Usage Contract, 1976-1985
Box 1, Folder 36	Guest Book, circa 1985
Box 2	Gallery Operations
Box 2, Folder 1	Job Search, Gallery Manager, circa 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Outside Receptions and Gallery Rentals, circa 1986-1991
Box 2, Folder 4	Ordering Guest Books, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 5	Receiving Book, Exhibitions, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 6	Supplies, Ordering Invitations, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 7	Supplies, Short-Run Labels, Inc., circa 1994
Box 2, Folder 8	Supplies, Stationery, circa 1994
Box 2, Folder 9	Website, 1996-1997
Box 2, Folder 10-27	General Administrative Records, 1925-1951
Box 3, Folder 1-24	General Administrative Records, circa 1946-1977
Box 4, Folder 1-25	General Administrative Records, circa 1975-circa 1990s

Box 5, Folder 1-10	General Administrative Records, circa 1990-circa 1994
Box 5, Folder 11-12	Hayes Valley Merchants Association, circa 1995-1996
Box 5	History of SFWA
Box 5, Folder 14-18	Biographies, circa 1990-circa 1998
Box 5, Folder 19	Booklet, circa 1997
Box 5, Folder 20	Copies of Clippings, circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 21	Dorr Bothwell Lecture, "SF Art Institute Lecture", circa 1996 <i>2 Cassette tapes (Includes paper notes and additional description.)</i>
Box 5, Folder 22-24	General History of SFWA, circa 1930-1996
Box 5, Folder 25	Obituaries, circa 1991-1998
Box 5, Folder 26	Radio Program, "KPFA-FM Heritage Program" Sound Recording, circa 1989 <i>1 Cassette tape (Descriptive note included.)</i>
Box 5, Folder 27	Radio Program, "SFWA on KALW", circa 1998 <i>1 Cassette tape</i>
Box 5, Folder 28	Video Recording, "Art and Music: Everybody's Angels", circa 1998 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS) (Descriptive note included.)</i>
Box 6	Marcelle Labaudt
Box 6, Folder 1	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Information, circa 1980s
Box 6, Folder 2	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Film Reels, circa 1980s <i>2 Film reels (16 mm)</i> Motion picture film reels stored separately in film cans numbered FC 17-18.
Box 6, Folder 3-5	"Marcell Labaudt Film" Materials, Sound Recordings, circa 1980s <i>6 Sound tape reels</i>
Box 6, Folder 6	"Marcelle Labaudt Film" Materials, Sound Recordings, circa 1980s <i>3 Cassette tapes</i> Cassette tapes may be copies of sound reels.
Box 6, Folder 7	Printed Material, 1976-1981

Box 6, Folder 8	Loose Clippings Scrapbook, circa 1980s
Box 6, Folder 9	Slides, Carousel I: "Attic Reception, Labaudt Slides and Festivals", circa 1970s
Box 6, Folder 10	Slides, Carousel II: "Lucien Labaudt's Reception Anniversary", circa 1970s
Box 6, Folder 11	Slides, Carousel III: "Lucien Show, Etc.", circa 1970s
Box 6, Folder 12	Marcelle Labaudt Scholarship Fund, circa 1987-1996
Box 6, Folder 13-16	Meetings, circa 1992-1998
Box 6, Folder 17	Miscellaneous Research, Women Artists, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 18-19	Officers and Directors, circa 1945-circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 20	Presidents' Talks, 1992-1998
Box 6, Folder 21-24	Publicity, circa 1951-circa 1994
Box 6, Folder 25	Rental Gallery of SFWA, 1992-1995
Box 6, Folder 26-31	Surveys and Questionnaires, 1990-1998
Box FC 17; Box FC 18	2 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 6, folder 2, circa 1980s 2 <i>Film reels (16 mm)</i>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1998

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7)

Correspondence is with donors and patrons, artists and members, board members, SFWA President Stefanie Steinberg, and others. Additional correspondence is found in Series 1.

Box 6, Folder 32	Potential Donors and Patrons, circa 1996
Box 6, Folder 33	Stefanie Steinberg, 1975-1976
Box 6, Folder 34	General, 1931-1932
Box 7, Folder 1-10	General, 1931-1997
Box 7, Folder 11-12	Donor Thank You Notes, 1993-1998
Box 7, Folder 13	to Irene Pattinson, 1980-1981
Box 7, Folder 14	to the Board from Members, circa 1995-1997

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Membership Files, 1925-circa 1998

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Membership files include rosters, renewals, directories, statistics, and applications, dropped members lists, printed membership applications, a letter for overdue membership, as well as two ledgers of paid memberships.

Box 7, Folder 15	Dropped Members, 1980-1981
Box 7, Folder 16	Ledger, Paid Memberships, 1981
Box 7, Folder 17	Ledger, Paid Memberships, 1983
Box 7, Folder 18	Letter for Overdue Membership, 1996
Box 7, Folder 19-28	Membership Applications, circa 1979-circa 1986
Box 8, Folder 1-9	Membership Applications, circa 1984-1998
Box 8, Folder 10-11	Member Biographies, circa 1998
Box 8, Folder 12-14	Membership Directory, 1975-1997
Box 8, Folder 15	Membership Renewals, 1994-1995
Box 8, Folder 16-28	Membership Rosters, 1925-1998
Box 8, Folder 29	Membership Statistics, 1947-1949
Box 8, Folder 30	Old Membership Applications, circa 1992-circa 1996

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1947-circa 1998

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 8-9)

Exhibition files are incomplete and contain announcements, photographs and slides, catalogs, notes and correspondence. Files are found for "The Paintings of Dorothy Winslade" (1994), "Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), "Annual SFWA Emerging Artists Show" (1988-1994), and "International Women" (1997), among many others. Also found are exhibition lists, price lists, and placards.

Box 8, Folder 31	Exhibition Lists and Price Lists, circa 1980s-1994
Box 8, Folder 32	Exhibition Placards, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 1	Annual San Francisco Women Artists, Jurors and Jury Ballots (circa 1947-1966), circa 1947-1956
Box 9, Folder 2	"Celebration of International Women" (1991), circa 1991
Box 9, Folder 3	"A Woman's Vision" (1992), 1992
Box 9, Folder 4-7	"Annual SFWA Emerging Artists Show" (1985-1994), circa 1984-circa 1994
Box 9, Folder 8	"The Paintings of Dorothy Winslade" (1994), 1994-1996
Box 9, Folder 9-10	"SFWA Centennial Show" (1994), 1992-1995
Box 9, Folder 11	"We Are All Connected" (1995), 1995
Box 9, Folder 12	"SFWA California Artists Juried Exhibition" (1995), 1994-1995
Box 9, Folder 13	"125th Anniversary San Francisco Art Institute" (1996), 1996
Box 9, Folder 14-17	"Art of Susan A. Whitney, Exhibit and Silent Auction" (1997), circa 1980-circa 1997
Box 9, Folder 18-19	"Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" (1997), circa 1996
Box 9, Folder 20	"International Women" (1997), 1996-1997
Box 9, Folder 21	"Breast Cancer Awareness Art Show" (circa 1998), circa 1998

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Inventory Records, circa 1974-circa 1985

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 9-10)

This series contains artist inventory cards noting artists, some artwork, and some exhibitions.

Inventory records are arranged in general alphabetical order and grouped to maintain the order in which they were found.

Box 9, Folder 22	A-B, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 23	B-C, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 24	C-E, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 25	F-G, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 26	G-I, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 27	J-L, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 28	M, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 29	A-E, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 30	F-K, circa 1974-1985
Box 9, Folder 31	Q-S, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 1	S-T, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 2	U-W, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 3	W-Z, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 4	L-R, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 5	S-Z, Miscellaneous, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 6	Miscellaneous, circa 1974-1985
Box 10, Folder 7	Drop-Outs and Deceased, circa 1974-1985

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Printed Material, 1926-1999

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 10-11, 16)

Printed materials include calendars, clippings, exhibition announcements, brochures and catalogs, general exhibition materials, general printed materials, and two books.

Box 10, Folder 8	Book, <u>The Development of Modern Art in Northern California: Part I</u> , 1978
Box 10, Folder 9	Book, <u>The Development of Modern Art in Northern California: Part II</u> , 1981
Box 10, Folder 10-20	Bulletins, 1926-1999
Box 10, Folder 21	Calendars, San Francisco Women Artists, 1969-1972 Oversized calendars housed in Box 16.
Box 10, Folder 22-29	Clippings, circa 1930s-circa 1996
Box 10, Folder 30-32	Exhibition Announcements, 1970-1996
Box 10, Folder 33	Exhibition Brochures, circa 1975-1989
Box 11, Folder 1	Exhibition Brochures, circa 1975-1989
Box 11, Folder 2-9	Exhibition Catalogs, 1933-1998
Box 11, Folder 10-15	General Exhibition Materials, circa 1950-circa 1990s
Box 11, Folder 16	General Printed Material, circa 1949-1992 Oversized material housed in Box 16.
Box 16, Folder 1	Oversized Calendars, San Francisco Women Artists, 1972
Box 16, Folder 2	Oversized General Printed Material, 1963-1986

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1925-circa 1990s

2.7 Linear feet (Boxes 11-13, 15)

Twenty scrapbooks (bound and unbound) contain clippings and exhibition materials, such as announcements, photographs, some notes, and biographies.

Scrapbooks are arranged in chronological order.

Box 11, Folder 17-18	Scrapbook 1, 1925-1941
Box 11, Folder 19	Scrapbook 2, circa 1920s-circa 1950s
Box 11, Folder 20-23	Scrapbook 3 , circa 1969-1970
Box 11, Folder 24	Scrapbook 4, circa 1970-1971
Box 12, Folder 1-2	Scrapbook 4, circa 1970-1971
Box 12, Folder 3-4	Scrapbook 5, circa 1971-1973
Box 12, Folder 5	Scrapbook 6, circa 1971-1973
Box 12, Folder 6-8	Scrapbook 7, circa 1973-1975
Box 12, Folder 9-10	Scrapbook 8, circa 1975-1976
Box 12, Folder 11-15	Scrapbook 9, 1979-1983
Box 12, Folder 16-17	Scrapbook 10, circa 1983-1985
Box 12, Folder 18-21	Scrapbook 11, circa 1983-1990
Box 12, Folder 22-23	Scrapbook 12, circa 1991-1994
Box 13, Folder 1-4	Scrapbook 13, "Biographies, 100 Years of Women in the Arts", circa 1994
Box 13, Folder 5	Scrapbook 14, circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 6	Scrapbook 15, circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 7-10	Scrapbook 16, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1960s-circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 11-12	Scrapbook 17, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1970s-circa 1990s

Box 13, Folder 13-15 Scrapbook 18, Exhibitions Scrapbook, circa 1991-1995

Box 15 Oversized Scrapbook 19, circa 1927-1940

Box 15 Oversized Scrapbook 20, 1977-1978

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Photographs, circa 1970-circa 1990s

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 13-14, 16)

Eight bound and unbound photograph albums, photographs, negatives, and slides depict artwork, exhibitions, galleries, events, artists at work, and images for an exhibition catalog.

Box 13, Folder 16	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 17-19	Photographs of Shows, circa 1970s-1992 Oversized photograph housed in Box 16.
Box 13, Folder 20	Photographs and Negatives for Catalog, circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 21	Slides of Gallery and Receptions, circa 1970-1990
Box 13, Folder 22	Slides of SFWA General Meeting, 4-20-97, circa 1997
Box 13, Folder 23	Slides of Ming Wu Demo, circa 1996
Box 13, Folder 24-27	Photograph Album 1, Unbound, 1976-1977
Box 14, Folder 1-2	Photograph Album 2, Unbound, circa 1980s
Box 14, Folder 3-6	Photograph Album 3, Unbound, circa 1987-circa 1989
Box 14, Folder 7-12	Photograph Album 4, Unbound, Exhibitions, circa 1989
Box 14, Folder 13-16	Photograph Album 5, Unbound, Exhibitions, 1991-1992
Box 14, Folder 17-20	Photograph Album 6, Unbound, Exhibitions, circa 1991
Box 16	Oversized Photograph Album 7, Bound, 1996-1998
Box 16, Folder 4	Oversized Photograph Album 8, Loose Pages, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 16, Folder 3	Oversized Photograph of Shows, circa 1970s-circa 1990s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)