



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Washington
Society of Landscape Painters Records,
1917-2000, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

Funding for the digitization of this collection was provided by The
Walton Family Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art

2001

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Washington Society of Landscape Painters records
Identifier:	AAA.washsocl
Date:	1917-2000
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Creator:	Washington Society of Landscape Painters
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The records of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters measure 1 linear foot and date from 1917 to 2000. The collection documents the activities of the society through scrapbooks, general records, printed matter, correspondence, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, via its past historian and archivist, 1999 and 2004.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Catherine S. Gaines in 2001. The finding aid was modified by Stephanie Ashley in 2001 prior to EAD conversion. The 2004 addition was incorporated in 2006, and the finding aid revised at that time. The collection was prepared for digitization and the finding aid was updated by Rihoko Ueno in 2016 with funding provided by the Walton Family Foundation and Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

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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.

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Biographical / Historical

The Washington Society of Landscape Painters is an art society based in Washington, D.C. Organized in 1919, it is one of the oldest artists organization in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Washington Society of Landscape Painters actually traces its inception to 1916, when Charles Seaton and Winfield Scott Cline and other landscape painters formed a group called the Ramblers.

By 1919, the organization was formally named the Landscape Club of Washington. It met at 1221 15th Street, N.W., in a wing of the home of Florida's Senator Fletcher, where they began holding exhibitions, an arrangement that lasted until the late 1920s.

Activities were curtailed during World War II, but exhibitions continued on a slightly reduced schedule. The annual banquet, a tradition begun in 1927, continued until the start of World War II; more than 35 years later, in 1976, another annual dinner was held. In 1996, the annual luncheon/dinner was reinstated as an annual event, although it is no longer a formal affair.

During the 1950s several outspoken members of the Landscape Club were vocal about their dissatisfaction with modern art, making newspaper headlines. Membership and local press coverage of their exhibitions declined during the 1960s and 1970s, though the group remained active during this period. At various times in the society's history, there has been a club historian who collected material produced by or about the organization and its members that was assembled in a set of scrapbooks titled "W.S.L.P. Archives," covering the years 1919-circa 1976. From the mid 1970s until the mid 1980s recordkeeping was less systematic and very few items have survived to fully document activities of the organization during this period. With a resurgence of interest in the club around the mid 1980s came improved attention to recordkeeping.

In the mid 1980s Landscape Club activities increased. There were more painting excursions, the exhibition schedule expanded, and a number of memorial prizes were established. The organization formally changed its name to the Washington Society of Landscape Painters in 1986. Painting on location and critiques of members work were held quarterly. Field trips, sometimes called "paint outs," sometimes extended longer than a weekend and might be in locations farther from home than previously. The group commemorated its 80th anniversary in 1993, at which time its constitution was amended, opening membership to women.

Scope and Contents

The records of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters (WSLP) measure 1 linear foot and date from 1917 to 2000. The collection documents the activities of the society through scrapbooks, general records, printed matter, correspondence, and photographs.

General records consist of administrative records such as the WSLP constitution and by-laws, meeting minutes, and membership lists, as well as miscellaneous material such as logbooks, guest registers, and scattered notes.

There is limited correspondence mostly on the subject of exhibitions, field trips, and membership.

Printed material consists of exhibition catalogs, announcements, reviews, newsletters, and clippings about the WSLP and its members.

There are several scrapbooks in this collection. The "W.S.L.P. Archives" consists of three volumes of material compiled by the club historian and contains photographs, clippings, and printed material about the organization, its activities, and its members. There is also one other scrapbook about WSLP members that is arranged alphabetically by name.

The photographic material includes a few snapshots of people painting at their easels outdoors and a few slides of an unidentified backyard.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series. Unless otherwise specified in the series descriptions, material within each folder is arranged chronologically.

- Series 1: General Records, 1917-1997 (Box 1, 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-1993 (Box 1, 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Matter, 1929-2000 (Box 1, 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1919-circa 1976 (Box 1, 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographs, 1967-1979 (Box 1, 0.1 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Societies, etc. -- Washington (D.C.)
Landscape painters -- Washington (D.C.)
Landscape painting -- 20th century -- Washington (D.C.)

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Visitors' books

Names:

Landscape Club of Washington, D.C.

Container Listing

Series 1: General Records, 1917-1997

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series contains administrative records of the society including the organization's constitution and by-laws and notes for a later proposed revision; minutes and meeting notes; notices of meetings and other club-sponsored activities; membership lists; and a treasurer's worksheet. Other records include organizational histories, guest registers, notes and lists and the Ramblers' 1917 Logbook. Organizational histories include a one page historical summary by Meyer Gilden with editorial comments; a copy of the history with a list of past presidents from the program of the 80th anniversary celebration in 1993; and "A Brief History of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters," by Dick Ray, dated 1997. The series also includes guest registers for the following: Old Towne Gallery, Alexandria, Virginia, February 1969; Alexandria Show, October 1969; November 1971; Hodges Gallery, November 1972; Annual Show, Arts Club, September 1973; and Hodges Gallery, December 1973.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Duplicates have not been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	"Logbook of the Ramblers", 1917 Image(s): "Logbook of the Ramblers": 1917 Includes photographs of members and outings.
Box 1, Folder 2	Notices of Meetings and Activities, 1934-1993 Image(s): Notices of Meetings and Activities: 1934-1993
Box 1, Folder 3	Constitution and By-Laws, 1937-1958 Image(s): Constitution and By-Laws: 1937-1958
Box 1, Folder 4	Membership Lists, 1954-1993 Image(s): Membership Lists: 1954-1993
Box 1, Folder 5	Minutes and Notes, 1955-1992 Image(s): Minutes and Notes: 1955-1992
Box 1, Folder 6	Treasurer's Worksheet, 1962 Image(s): Treasurer's Worksheet: 1962
Box 1, Folder 7	Guest Registers, 1969-1973 Image(s): Guest Registers: 1969-1973
Box 1, Folder 8	President's Newsletter (Handwritten), 1970 Image(s): President's Newsletter (Handwritten): 1970
Box 1, Folder 9	Notes and Lists, circa 1988

[Image\(s\): Notes and Lists: circa 1988](#)

Box 1, Folder 10

Organization History, circa 1993-1997

[Image\(s\): Organization History: circa 1993-1997](#)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-1993

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series mainly concerns exhibitions, field trips, and membership. General correspondence concerns striking of medals, and a letter confirming a speaker's acceptance for the 80th anniversary luncheon. Exhibition correspondence documents arrangements for exhibitions including correspondence with host institutions, instructions for members, and contracts. Field trip correspondence confirms arrangements and contains printed attachments about various facilities. Member correspondence mainly concerns elections and acceptances but also concerns delinquent dues, resignations, thank you notes, Preston Baustian and Arthur F. Harless memorial award funds, and news of members who moved away.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1960-1993 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12	Exhibitions, 1961-1991 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13	Field Trips, 1975-1987 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 14	Members, 1958-1992 Image(s)

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1929-2000 (bulk 1955-1993)

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Printed matter consists of club exhibition announcements, catalogs and reviews, member files, a club newsletter, and miscellaneous material. The member files contain mainly newsclippings, obituaries, exhibition announcements, and catalogs regarding: Bittinger, Charles; Cupoli, James V.; Crockett, Gib; Dunn, Charles; Eboli, Jules Luis; Eyer, Charles Robert; Firestone, Louis; Gilden, Meyer; Greene, Gary G.; Hennessey, Shawn; Jex, Garnet W.; Karafyllakis, Antonios L.; Mangus, Marvin; Miller, Garver; Moore, Benson; Needham, Thomas; O'Hara, Eliot; Petrie, Kenneth; Rittase, Roger; Rolle, August H. O.; Schmidt, Alfred G.; Schmidt, William J.; Shankman, Gary; Smith, Ralph; Sudduth, Newman; and Wendelin, Randolph. Miscellaneous material includes a membership application form, membership lists, the cover for a small booklet (possibly another edition of the membership list), and letterhead samples.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 15	WSLP Exhibitions, 1955-1991 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16	Group Shows (not WSLP) Featuring Members, circa 1973 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Members, B-P, 1929-2000 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	Members, R-W, 1929-2000 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	"Landscape Club Notes" Newsletters, 1970-1975 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 20	Articles About the Landscape Club, 1936-1983 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21	Miscellaneous WSLP Brochures and Stationary, circa 1930-circa 1990 Image(s)

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Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1919-circa 1976

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series consists of two scrapbooks compiled by the club historian. The three volume "W.S.L.P. Archives," contains newsclippings including exhibition notices, reviews, and feature articles about the club and its members; other printed matter including exhibition announcements and catalogs of the Landscape Club and shows of individual members; membership lists; form letters; meeting notices; the society's constitution and by-laws; annual banquet invitations and programs; photographs (and some copies of photographs) of exhibition venues and installations, works of art, annual banquets, and members on field trips; reports of field trips; and a small number of letters and Christmas cards from members. Another scrapbook is about members. It contains biographical notes, photographs, exhibition announcements, reviews, and catalogs. Labeled sheets which only have names indicate that spaces were reserved for artists for whom no material was collected.

The members scrapbook is arranged alphabetically by artist.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Duplicates have not been scanned. A lot of items such as brochures, pamphlets, and letters, are pasted into the scrapbooks so there are often multiple scans of items on a page in order to capture all the content.

Box 1, Folder 22	"WSLP Archives," Volume 1 (1 of 3), 1919-1935 Image(s): "WSLP Archives," Volume 1 (1 of 3): 1919-1935
Box 1, Folder 23	"WSLP Archives," Volume 1 (2 of 3), 1919-1935 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	"WSLP Archives," Volume 1 (3 of 3), 1919-1935 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	"WSLP Archives," Volume 2 (1 of 3), 1935-1947 Image(s): "WSLP Archives," Volume 2 (1 of 3): 1935-1947
Box 1, Folder 26	"WSLP Archives," Volume 2 (2 of 3), 1935-1947 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 27	"WSLP Archives," Volume 2 (3 of 3), 1935-1947 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 28	"WSLP Archives," Volume 3 (1 of 3), 1947-1969 Image(s): "WSLP Archives," Volume 3 (1 of 3): 1947-1969
Box 1, Folder 29	"WSLP Archives," Volume 3 (2 of 3), 1947-1969 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 30	"WSLP Archives," Volume 3 (3 of 3), 1947-1969 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 31	Members Scrapbook, A-Z, circa 1975-1976

[Image\(s\): Members Scrapbook, A-Z: circa 1975-1976](#)

A few duplicate photographs have not been scanned.

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Series 5: Photographic Material, 1967-1979

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

This small series consists of 4 snapshots of unidentified men, presumably Washington Society of Landscape Painters members, painting outdoors and 8 slides of the backyard of a house.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Blank versos of photographs and a few duplicate photographs have not been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 32

Slides of "Mr. Eckert's House" Backyard, 1967-1973

[Image\(s\): Slides of "Mr. Eckert's House" Backyard: 1967-1973](#)

Box 1, Folder 33

Snapshots of WSLP Members Painting Outdoors, 1979

[Image\(s\): Snapshots of WSLP Members Painting Outdoors: 1979](#)

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