



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John Weichsel Papers Concerning the People's Art Guild, 1905-1965, bulk 1905-1929, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John Weichsel papers concerning the People's Art Guild
Date:	1905-1965, bulk 1905-1929 (bulk 1905-1929)
Identifier:	AAA.weicjohn
Creator:	Weichsel, John, 1870-1946
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English
Summary:	The John Weichsel papers concerning the People's Art Guild measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1905-1965 with the bulk of the material dating from 1905-1929. The papers consist almost entirely of the records of the People's Art Guild, founded by Weichsel, and include administrative records, correspondence, writings and notes, business and financial records, printed material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1960 and 1963 by Dr. H. S. Weichsel and John Weichsel, the son and grandson of Dr. John Weichsel. At an unknown later date, grandson John Weichsel donated his 1965 thesis on the Peoples Art Guild.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels N60-1 to N60-2, 3, and 1079 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

Several accretions of the papers were microfilmed shortly after receipt onto reels N60-1-N60-2, 3, and 1079. In 2013, the accretions were integrated and processed to a minimal level by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

John Weichsel papers concerning the People's Art Guild, 1905-1965, bulk 1905-1929. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

John Weichsel (1870-1946) was an arts administrator and founded the artists' cooperative People's Art Guild of New York City in 1915.

John Weichsel was born in Poland and ultimately settled in New York City. The People's Art Guild was founded by Weichsel as an artist's cooperative focused on improving and expanding knowledge of art and the art world among the general public, believing this would increase art appreciation and patronage.

Scope and Contents

The John Weichsel papers concerning the People's Art Guild measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1905-1965 with the bulk of the material dating from 1905-1929. The papers consist almost entirely of the records of the People's Art Guild, founded by Weichsel, and include administrative records, correspondence, writings and notes, business and financial records, printed material, and artwork.

People's Art Guild records include the constitution, membership lists, and correspondence with Gifford Beal, George Bellows, Oscar Bluemner, Stuart Davis, Robert Delaunay, Leon Kroll, Standon Macdonald-Wright, Jules Pascin, John Sloan, Willard Wright and Marguerite and William Zorach, among others. Writings about the Peoples Art Guild are by Weichsel and his grandson John Weichsel. There are also lists of artists and works of art. Also found are very scattered business and financial records, printed materials, and artwork in the form of sketches for exhibition announcements.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Administrative Records, 1915-1917 (2 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1905-1922 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1915-circa 1919, 1965 (4 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Business and Financial Records, 1915-1917 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1-2)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1915-circa 1948 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 6: Artwork, 1915-1916 (1 folder; Box 2)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sketches

Names:

Beal, Gifford, 1879-1956
Bellows, George, 1882-1925
Bluemner, Oscar, 1867-1938
Davis, Stuart, 1892-1964
Delaunay, Robert, 1885-1941
Kroll, Leon, 1884-1974
Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973
Pascin, Jules, 1885-1930
People's Art Guild
Sloan, John, 1871-1951
Van Dine, S. S.
Weichsel, John, 1938?-
Zorach, Marguerite, 1887-1968
Zorach, William, 1887-1966

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Arts organizations -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1915-1917

2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are records relating to the administration of John Weichsel's People's Art Guild including a constitution of the organization and membership lists.

Box 1, Folder 1 Constitution, 1915

Box 1, Folder 2 Membership Lists, 1916-1917

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1905-1922

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found is scattered professional correspondence relating to John Weichsel's People's Art Guild. Letters concern works of art lent to the organization and praise for Weichsel. Also found are People's Art Guild form letters and one letter from Eva Weichsel to her husband. Correspondents include John H. Alger, Gifford Beal, George Bellows, Thomas Hart Benton, Oscar Bluemner, Horace Brodzky, Glenn O. Coleman, Stuart Davis, Robert Delaunay, Henry Glintenkamp, Samuel Halpert, Robert Henri, Leon Kroll, Adelaide Lawson (Gaylor), Florence N. Levy, Stanton Macdonald Wright, Gus Mager, Henry A. Mathes, William Meyerowitz, Kenneth H. Miller, Mary H. Mowbray-Clarke, Jerome Myers, Elie Nadelman, John F. Parker, Jules Pascin, Abraham Phillips (Tromka), Maurice Prendergast, Man Ray, John Sloan, Maurice Sterne, Alfred Stieglitz, Abraham Walkowitz, Max Weber, Willard H. Wright (S.S. Van Dine), Marguerite and William Zorach.

Box 1, Folder 2	A, 1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Alger
Box 1, Folder 4	B, 1915-1919 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Bartholow • Gifford Beal • Maurice Becker • George Bellows • Thomas Hart Benson • Oscar Bluemner • J. Van Gogh Bonger • Horace Brodzsky
Box 1, Folder 5	C, 1916-1917 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Caffin • Archie Coates • Glenn Coleman
Box 1, Folder 6	D, 1915-1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Davis • Amelia Defies • Robert Delauney • Anna Drayton • Maurice Dubonnet
Box 1, Folder 7	E, 1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Elzy
Box 1, Folder 8	F, 1916-circa 1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Feinberg • Walter Frankl • Freuh
Box 1, Folder 9	G, 1915-1921 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Glintenkamp • Carl Grabo

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Guggenheimer
Box 1, Folder 10	H, 1915-circa 1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Halpert • Robert Henri
Box 1, Folder 11	K, circa 1915-1922 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Katzenbaum • Eva Katzman • Albert Kennedy • Henry Kent • Leon Kroll
Box 1, Folder 12	L, 1917-1922 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adelaide Lawson • Sam Lewisohn • Florence Levy • I. Lichtenstein
Box 1, Folder 13	M, 1915-1921 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanton Macdonald-Wright • P. Macdougall • Gus Mager • Dr. J. L. Magnes • Man Ray • Henry Mathes • William Meyerowitz • Kenneth Miller • <i>The Modernist</i> • Mary Horgan Mowbray-Clarke • Jerome Meyers
Box 1, Folder 14	N, 1915-1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eli Nadelman • Edward Nagle • Abraham Neumann • New York Public Library
Box 1, Folder 15	P, 1915-1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John F. Parker • Jules Pascin • Frederick Pauling • A. Phillips • Juliet Stuart Poyntz • Maurice Prendergast
Box 1, Folder 16	R, 1917 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adelaide Roosevelt
Box 1, Folder 17	S, 1913-1921	

	Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florence Saltzberg • Boris Schatz • M. Schwartz • S. R. Slavsky • John Sloan • Maurice Sterne • Alfred Stieglitz • Elizabeth Stieglitz • Joseph Suib
Box 1, Folder 18	V, circa 1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Vaughn (?)
Box 1, Folder 19	W, 1905-1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Walkowitz • Max Weber • Eva Weichsel • Agnes Weinrich • Herbert Wolf • Willard Wright
Box 1, Folder 20	Z, 1915-1918 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marguerite Zorach • William Zorach
Box 1, Folder 21	Illegible, 1918	
Box 1, Folder 22	People's Art Guild Form Letters, 1915	

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1965, 1915-circa 1919

4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are writings by Weichsel and lists relating to the People's Art Guild. Writings by Weichsel concern a Jewish Museum, the People's Art Guild, and the state of art. Also found are exhibition lists and lists of works of art.

Box 1, Folder 23 Writings by John Weichsel and grandson John Weichsel, 1965, circa 1918

Box 1, Folder 24 Lists of Artists, circa 1917

Box 1, Folder 25 Lists of Works of Art and Exhibitions, 1915-1917

Box 1, Folder 26 Notes, circa 1919

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Series 4: Business and Financial Records, 1915-1917

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Found are records from the People's Art Guild including an account ledger, account balances notes, price lists, acknowledgement receipts for works of art received by the art guild for exhibitions, and general receipts. Acknowledgement receipts between the People's Art Guild and the artists participating in exhibitions include titles of works of art, prices, and dates.

Box 1, Folder 27-28	Account Ledger and Balances, 1915-1916
Box 1, Folder 29	Price Lists, 1915-1917
Box 1, Folder 30	Acknowledgement Receipts, 1915-1916
Box 2, Folder 1	Receipts, 1915-1916

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1915-circa 1948

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found are printed materials from the People's Art Guild including exhibition announcements and catalogs, and blank membership materials. Also found are exhibition announcements and catalogs for other organizations and institutions, clippings, and art publications.

Box 2, Folder 2 People's Art Guild Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1915-1918

Box 2, Folder 3 People's Art Guild Blank Forms, 1916

Box 2, Folder 4 Clippings, 1915-1918

Box 2, Folder 5 Pamphlets, Other Organizations, circa 1917-1948

Box 2, Folder 6 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1915-1929

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Series 6: Artwork, 1915-1916

1 Folder (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found are drafts of exhibition announcements.

Box 2, Folder 7 Exhibition Announcements, 1915-1916

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