

Permanent collection photographs

PC.01.08

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
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215-972-2066

Updated December 2015

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Title	Permanent collection photographs
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1901-1902, 1940s, 1956, 1970s, 1990s, 2002-2004, undated
Extent	1 document box, 1 oversized item stored in flat file
Location note	
Language	English
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	Photographs taken throughout the 20 th century at during various museum activities such as restoration, moves, conservations, and general views.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

From 1805 to about 1880, the permanent collection grew slowly and primarily by gift. Much of the collection consisted of European art. Purchases of works by American artists took place when opportunities arose to acquire an important piece, such as the 1836 purchase of Benjamin West's *Death on the Pale Horse*. In 1870, at the time of the sale of the Chestnut Street building, the collection included 161 paintings, of which 54 were by American artists, and 30 sculptures, of which 4 were by Americans.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, several large bequests enriched the Academy's holdings, with roughly half of each bequest consisting of European pieces. In the final decade of the century, purchases of American art, especially from the annual exhibitions, which now featured only native artists, increased sharply due to the bequest of Joseph E. Temple for the purchase of American paintings. The size of the collection grew, and its American focus began to take shape. Few European works were purchased after 1870. By 1890 the collection included 310 paintings, 128 of which were by American artists, and 57 sculptures, 8 of which were by Americans. Although no formal policy restricting the Academy's focus to American work was expressed until well into the twentieth century, its American emphasis became dominant by the 1890s.

Deaccessions of European art began in the late nineteenth century and have continued to the present. Today the collection encompasses more than 1,600 paintings, 350 sculptures, and 11,000 works on paper. The Academy has never collected decorative art.

Information about the history of the collection is extensive. Property registers and collection catalogues were maintained throughout the nineteenth century and were updated several times in the twentieth. The registrar maintains files on every object currently in the collection, and the Archives houses files on deaccessioned objects.

Exhibition catalogues for the collection have also added to the documentation. Before 1870, however, many catalogues intermingled works of art owned by the Academy, objects brought in for display in the annual exhibitions, and art on long-term deposit from private owners.

Scope and Contents note

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically. Photographic mediums have been separated to promote preservation.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Related collections

Provenance note

Processing Information note

Processed by Cheryl Leibold.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Date	Item Title	Box #	Folder #
1970	Pennsylvania Governor's Mansion	1	1
1974	Cincinnati Museum of Art	1	2
1974-1975	White House	1	3
1974-1975	National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery	1	4
December 1974 - December 1975	Masterworks of American Art, 1740-1840	1	5
1974-1975	Cecilia Beaux - Installation and Opening Reception	1	6
1974-1975	Cecilia Beaux - Individual works exhibited	1	7
June - July 1975	A Victorian Masterpiece Rediscovered	1	8

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July 2-25, 1975	Young America	1	9
August - September 1975	Young America	1	10
December 11, 1975 - January 18, 1976	Young America	1	11
September 22 - October 3, 1975	Ah What a Swell Painting	1	12
September 29 - October 27, 1982	Contemporary American Realism	1	13
1982	American Realism Since 1960	1	14
April 7-12, 1989	Portraits Plain and Fancy	1	15
1992-1993	Light, Air and Color	1	16
1992-1993	Telling Tales: Narrative Paintings from PAFA	1	17
1993-1994	Facing the Past: 19th Century Portraits from PAFA	1	18
1995	The Figure/The Body	1	19
2001	15 Exposures - Alumni Exhibition	1	20
2002	15 Exposures - Alumni Exhibition	1	21