EUGENIE F. SHONNARD COLLECTION
New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Extent: 2.16 linear ft.
Dates: 1920 - 1990
Language: English

Related Materials
The museum library has an artist biographical file for Shonnard. The museum’s exhibition files and catalogs mention Shonnard frequently, particularly in solo exhibitions held in 1928 and 1954.

Shonnard is also mentioned in the Governor’s Gallery Collection.
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Preface

Born in Yonkers, N.Y. on April 29, 1886, Eugenie F. Shonnard (Mrs. E. Ludlum), herein referred to simply as EFS, became a resident of Santa Fe at age 40 years and lived there (226 Hickox Street) until her demise at age 91 years, on April 5, 1978. She had a prestigious heritage, being the daughter of a Civil War colonel, and three generations removed from a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

She began her art training at a very early age at the New York School of Applied Design for Women where she became a model for Alphonse Mucha. In 1911 she went to Paris to continue her studies with helpful criticisms from Rodin and Bourdelle. She often exhibited at the Paris Salons from 1912 to 1923.

Showing much promise, in 1926 she was invited by Edgar L. Hewett to visit New Mexico and sculpture Pueblo Indians. She had an exhibition the year after at the Museum of Art. Eventually she invented a product called "Keenstone" that was actually artificial stone. Although sculpture was her favorite art form, she began her artistic career as a lace designer. Her first sculpture was a bas-relief in clay. Thereafter she worked with granite, various woods, and bronze.

She married Edward Gordon Ludlum on July 26, 1933 who predeceased her.

Her work was exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Pennsylvania Academy, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and at many other institutions throughout the world, prominently in France. Animals and birds featured her early works. As Vivian Fiske put it in a talk show she once gave, "Eugenie constantly pushes on - she will never rest on her laurels." And she never did.

The first Section of this Collection digests some of the written laurels bestowed upon her during her long life and posthumously.

The collection is stored in Box 187 and Oversize (O.B.) Box 68.

Statement. By Ben Bowen, critic. Titled, About the Arts. On EFS.


3. Tear sheets from an encyclopedia of artists. 2 pp., 145-146. On EFS. Photocopy.


5. Clipping. The Taos News. 12-3-70. [Same topic.] Biographic sketch.

6. Clipping. New Mexican. 6-17-79. Reports gifts from the late EFS. Photos of EFS carving, house contents. Detailed review of her Civil War heritage.

6A. Autobiographic statement. Received by MFA on 5-4-90. Sets forth family information; EFS art background; achievements; awards; articles; etc. Photocopy. Some pages cropped.


8. Eulogy. [No attribution; n.d.] Biographic sketch. 2 cc.

9. Biographic sketch. 1940. From Who's Who. References to works; studies; awards; shows.

10. Transcript. Truman Mathews talk for [EFS]. 1pg. Philosophic approach to EFS.


Section II: Articles

1. Note to El Palacio. MNM. 10-1-25. Shonnard at Santa Fe working all Summer at museum studio. Will take her work to Paris to be cast in bronze.


7. Ibid. 7-3-60: About the Arts. Column. By Donald Latimer. Urging readers to visit the Rosario Chapel to see EFS' "new and noble reredos."


1.A. Catalog. Galeries J. Allard (Paris) 1926 Watercolor and Sculpture

   - List of 61 works. Pgs. 11-12.
   - Disquisition, biographic. Pgs. 5-10. [No attribution.]


   - Officials and staff members. Pg. 1.
   - Loans to show. Pg. 2
   - Exhibitions by gallery. Pgs. 3-38.
   - EFS work. Pueblo Indian Woman. Pg. 20.


   - 1 Photo on cover of Shonnard sculpture of Indian Head in Sandstone. [Not in numbered works.]


   - Shonnard bronzes for sale, among other prominent artists.


Lengthy biographic sketch and recital of previous exhibitions.
Section IV : Photographs

1. Shonnard Residence. With paintings(s) hung on walls. Black and white, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 (3); color, 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 (2).
   Accompanying envelope from Tom Catron.

2. - Polaroid, color (22). Descriptions on reverse sides.
   - Glossies, black and white (5). 3 1/2 x 3 1/2. Descriptions on reverse sides.
Section V : Newspaper Clippings

Newspaper clippings have been replaced with photocopies that are less subject to deterioration. Some of the clippings were carelessly cropped, but the mass of them – not all by any means that surely appeared in the press over the years – sheds light upon EFS' illustrious career. The clippings are filed by decade.

* * *

1. The 20s and 30s.
2. The 1950s.
3. The 1960s.
4. The 1970s and 80s.
5. Undated.
Section VI: Miscellaneous

A. Letters

1. 3-18-47: Wilford S. Conrow to Edgar L. Hewett.

3-1947: Historical Society Of New Mexico to Wilford S. Conrow.
Reports that his letter to Edgar L. Hewett dated March 18, 1947
never reached him since he died on December 31, 1946.

8-12-47: Sylvanus Morley [Director, MFA] to EFS.
Enclosing for EFS Wilfred S. Conrow's portrait of Shonnard.
[With high praise.]

8-12-47: Morley to Conrow.
Noting his action as taken in above letters.

2. 11-18-64: EFS –"Babe" to Herbert C. Smyth [first cousin].

[Same parties.]

2-8-65: Herbert C. Smyth to Candace Read [granddaughter]
Re: EFS [her first cousin].

3-5-65: [Same parties.]

3. 4-13-78: Christy Shonnard Hedges to [Edna] Robinson.

10-31-78: Christy Hedges to Don Strel.

3-21-83: James E. Clary to Sandra D'Emilio [MFA].

8-13-89: Candace Benyei to MFA.
O.B. 68

B. Sketches, Drawings.

EFS sketches. Originals.

Pieces selected for Archival Storage, June 2003:


2 Les Hommes du Jour, French Publication, 1922. One has an original signature by Mateo Hernandez.

1 Sepia tint photograph of Mucha, 1906. Photographer.

1 Sheet of brown paper missing a photograph of E. Shonnard at the age of 20, 1906.

1 B/W photograph of a young girl, 8 or 9 years old, E. Shonnard (?). n.d.

2 Brown folders with images of Russia, Shonnard used as guides for her paintings.

13 Different illustrations and photos of people Shonnard used as guides for her portrait paintings. N.d.

1 Certificate to Shonnard from the New York School of Applied Design for Women, 1908.

Box 187

C. Miscellaneous photographs, etc.

4. - Pages from scrapbook. Photos of family members, animals, etc. [Pasted on sheets.]
- Photos of Indians, animals. [Loose.]
  = Article. Cave Paintings. Stone age art.
  = Article. Young Man (age 10) of Modern Art.
  Hasan Kaptan, Turkish.