

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.

Box 187

Section I : Biographic Material

1. Statement. By Alfred Morang, critic and artist. On EFS, Sculptor. N.d.

Statement. By Ben Bowen, critic. Titled, About the Arts. On EFS.
2. Booklet extract. Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina. 1937. 1 page.
Brief but detailed biographic sketch of EFS. [No attribution.]
Picture of Co-Co, a sculptured rabbit. By EFS.
3. Tear sheets from an encyclopedia of artists. 2 pp., 145-146. On EFS. Photocopy.
4. Clipping. New Mexican. 11-29-70. Article: Arts Commission Honors [EFS].
Reports award of Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the Arts.
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.
7. Articles (2). By Charles H. Caffin, art critic. N.d.
On her various works.
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.

Transcript. Vivian Fiske talk for [EFS].
Philosophic approach to Shonnard.
11. Memorial Service. Program. By Pedro Ribera-Ortega. N.d.
Review of work in Rosario Chapel on reredo by Shonnard
12. Clipping. Albuquerque Tribune. 10-14-55.
Reports death of Ludlum.
13. Tape. Talk given by Shonnard on April 16, 1982 in Museum Library. AVC 759. 13
Museum Library

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.
2. Transcript. From El Palacio. Vol. XXI, Nos. 3-5. September 1, 1926.
Shonnard exhibit in Paris, described.
3. San Miguel News. Vol. 5, No. 3. December 1927. Shonnard now permanently in Santa Fe.
Cover: Picture of Shonnard at work on best of Miguel Chavez
Article, p.1: Describes work on best for St. Michael's College. Santa Fe.
4. El Palacio. Vol. XXV, No. 26. December 29, 1928. Photocopy.
Cover: Picture of Pueblo Indian in Wood by EFS.
Pgs. 97-98: Exhibit by EFS of watercolors and oils.
5. Ibid. Transcript. Vol. XLII, Nos. 4-6. January 27-February 3-10, 1937.
Reports on Indian Sculpture exhibit for EFS.
Sketches her life and philosophy.
6. The New Mexican. 6-29-58: About the Arts. Column. By Ben Bowen. Article: [EFS].
Illustrated. Comments on her sculptures.
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."
8. [Source unknown.] Article: Personalities. [No attribution.] May 1962. Santa Fe Scene.
Box photo of Shonnard.
9. The New Mexican. 4-14-63: About the Arts. Column. By Helen Peterson. General
comments about Shonnard's lifestyle.
10. Ibid. 6-16-64: Arts and Artists. Column. By Dave Weber. Discusses EFS'
"keystone." Announces opening of her show at the Museum of Art that
afternoon. Brief biographic sketch.
11. American Artist Magazine. June 1966. Article: The Sculpture of [EFS]. By Enid Bell.
Original and copy. Pages 62-89. Anecdotal review of her artistic experiences. Many
illustrations, including first page photo of artist working at sculpture of Witter Bynner.
12. El Palacio. Vol. 86, No. 2. Summer 1980. Notes. Pg. 42. Photocopy. Photo of EFS
house, front porch, temporary home for the MFA during its renovation. Located at 1411
Paseo de Peralta.

Section III : Exhibitions/Catalogs

1. Catalog. Art Institute of Chicago. Historical Paintings *** Slavic Nations. By Alphonse Mucha. June 17-July 19, 1920.
Back cover: Picture of bust of Mucha by EFS.
1. A. Catalog. Galeries J. Allard (Paris) 1926 Watercolor and Sculpture
2. Catalog. Art Museum. School of American Research. December 4, 1927 to January 5, 1928. Exhibition of Shonnard sculpture. 2 cc.
List of 61 works. Pgs. 11-12.
Disquisition, biographic . Pgs. 5-10. [No attribution.]
3. Tear sheet. El Palacio. Vol. XXV, No. 26. December 29, 1928. Cover (only): photo of Pueblo Indian in wood. Wood.
4. Catalog. Official Art Exhibition of California Pacific International Exposition. May 29-November 11, 1935. 44 pgs.
Index of exhibiting artists. Pgs. 39-43.
Officials and staff members. Pg. 1.
Loans to show. Pg. 2
Exhibitions by gallery. Pgs. 3-38.
EFS work. Pueblo Indian Woman. Pg. 20.
5. Extract. El Palacio. Vol. XLII, Nos. 4-6. January 27 to February 3-10, 1937. Pg. 19: Indian Sculpture Exhibit by EFS.
6. Catalog (3). Brookgreen Gardens. S.C. 1937. Fold-over. Photographs of Shonnard sculpture (12). Biographic sketch.
7. Catalog. School of American Research. Twenty-fifth Annual Exhibition of Painters and Sculptors of the Southwest. September 1-30, 1938.
1 Photo on cover of Shonnard sculpture of Indian Head in Sandstone.
[Not in numbered works.]
8. Invitation. National Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C. From March 17, 1941.
9. Catalog. La Quinta. Albuquerque, N.M. May 1942.
Shonnard bronzes for sale, among other prominent artists.
10. Program. Unveiling of bronze plaque of late Justice Howard L. Bickley. [By EFS.]
October 18, 1948.
11. Invitation and Exhibition Catalog. [NM Museum of Art]. May 16 through June 13, 1954. An Exercise Honoring [EFS].
Frontispiece: photo of Shonnard with her works. Biographic essay. By Reginald Fisher. List of works; with illustrations. 75 pieces.

12. Invitation. Roswell Museum and Art Center. Exhibition of Sculpture of [EFS]. November 9-December 10, 1969. Photographs of Shonnard.
13. Catalog. Governor's Gallery. First Anniversary Exhibition. April 26 to May 21, 1976. Works of EFS and others. Illustrated. Cover picture of Shonnard.
14. Invitation (French). Beaux-Arts. Paris. La Galerie Allard. 1926 [?].
15. Parish History. Church of the Holy Faith. La Villa Real de la Santa Fe.
Cover: sculpture by Shonnard.
16. Periodical. Colorado Fine Arts Center. Colorado Springs. February 1977. Article.
Major Retrospective Exhibition Planned of [EFS] work. [No attribution.] Show from
March 17 to April 17.
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.

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B. Sketches, Drawings.

EFS sketches. Originals.

Pieces selected for Archival Storage, June 2003:

- 3 Exposition posters with Indian head design for Shonnard Exhibition in Paris. Poor condition. N.d. Original Drawing. Pen and ink lettering.
- 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.]
 - LIFE Magazine. N.d. Pgs 63-70. Illustrations.
 - = Article. Cave Paintings. Stone age art.
 - = Article. Young Man (age 10) of Modern Art. Hasan Kaptan, Turkish.