

## **Coll 0029: Eugenie F. Shonnard Collection**

### Table of Contents

COLL 0029:	Scope & Content
COLL 0029:	Biographical Note
COLL 0029/01:SERIES 1:	Biographic Material
COLL 0029/02:SERIES 2:	Articles
COLL 0029/03:SERIES 3:	Exhibition Catalogs
COLL 0029/04:SERIES 4:	Photographs
COLL 0029/05:SERIES 5:	Newspaper Clippings
COLL 0029/06:SERIES 6:	Correspondence
COLL 0029/07:SERIES 7:	Sketches and Drawings

**COLL 0029: Eugenie F. Shonnard Collection**

**Provenance:** Items in this collection were gifted with no limiting conditions or restrictions by the Estate of Eugenie Shonnard Ludlum to the Museum of New Mexico Foundation on July 10, 1979. Materials deemed appropriate were subsequently given to the New Mexico Museum of Art permanent collection and archives.

**Scope and Content:** This collection documents the life and artistic career of Eugenie F. Shonnard, a noted artist and sculptor who spent the latter half of her life living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The collection primarily documents Shonnard's biographical information through articles and newspaper clippings as well as her artistic activities and history of exhibitions from the 1920s-1970s. Original newspaper clippings were replaced by photocopies at some time prior to 2021. Exhibition catalogs in the collection from the 1920s-1970s span geographic locations from New Mexico, to Colorado, California, and Paris. The collection also contains some sketches by Shonnard, photographs of family members and animals, and reference images she saved from magazines.

**Biographical Note:** Eugenie F. Shonnard, herein referred to as EFS, was born in Yonkers, New York, on April 29, 1886. Her earliest art education took place at the New York School of Applied Design for Women, where she studied lace making, wallpaper design, book cover illustration, and similar arts in her late teens and early twenties. While there, she met Czechoslovakian artist Alphonse Mucha, who agreed to mentor her in drawing, painting, and sculpture.

She moved to Paris in 1911, where she continued to work with Mucha and received additional mentorship in sculpture from Auguste Rodin and Antoine Bourdelle. Her career in Paris took off quickly, and her work was exhibited in the Paris Salons in 1912 and 1913. She returned to New York in 1914 after the invasion of Luxembourg and spent the war years there, notably working with James Earl Fraser and the Art Students League. She returned to Paris in the 1920s and found great success, exhibiting again in the Salons and in a 1926 solo exhibition at the Gallery Allard, which was critically acclaimed. She spent several summers during this period in the village of Ploumenach, Brittany, sculpting Breton peasants and painting landscapes.

Shonnard first came to New Mexico in 1925 at the behest of Edgar Lee Hewett. She spent that visit sculpting portraits of Pueblo Indians, with which Hewett was greatly pleased, and he invited her to come to New Mexico permanently in 1927.

Her work in New Mexico featured Pueblo figures and nature motifs. She worked with granite, wood, bronze, and sandstone at first, but began working in a medium of her own invention, which she named Keenstone, in the late 1950s. This mix of Portland cement, pumice, glue, and powdered pigment was ideal for Shonnard because it resembled sandstone while weighing significantly less, making it preferable for architectural applications. A prominent example of her work in Keenstone is the reredos at the Rosario Chapel in Santa Fe, which Shonnard unveiled in 1961. Shonnard maintained a close relationship with the NMMoA for the rest of her life, and when she passed away in 1978 at the age of 92 she donated her house (226 Hickox Street) and artistic work to the Museum of New Mexico Foundation.

**Sources:**

Eugenie Shonnard: Sculptor Sincere. (1961, June 10). *The Santa Fe Scene*, pp.4-8.

Galerie D'Allard (1926). Exhibit Catalog for Shonnard Exhibition. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Hewett, E.L. (1925). Letter to Eugenie Shonnard. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Oral History interview with Eugenie Shonnard (1964 February 27 - 1964 April 9). *Archives of American Art*, Smithsonian Institution

Shonnard, E.F. (1971). Letter to Kenneth Bloomfield. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Shonnard, E.F. (1905). Letter to Alphonse Mucha. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts (1912). Exhibitor Card Sent to Shonnard. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts (1913). Exhibitor Card Sent to Shonnard. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts (1924). Exhibitor Card Sent to Shonnard. Santa Fe, New Mexico; Fray Angelico Chavez History Library.

**Related Materials:** The New Mexico Museum of Art Library contains an artist file and additional exhibition catalogs featuring Shonnard's work. Library holdings can be searched at: [https://newm.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/moa/](https://newm.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/moa/). MOA's permanent collection also has extensive holdings of Shonnard material that can be searched at: <https://sam.nmartmuseum.org/collections>

**Extent:** .5 LF

**Arrangement:** Seven Series: 1. Biographic Material; 2. Articles; 3. Exhibition Catalogs; 4. Photographs; 5. Newspaper Clippings; 6. Correspondence; 7. Sketches and Drawings

**Locations:** MOA Plaza Building, Archives Annex

*This Finding Aid was updated from the original (undated) in July 2024.*

**COLL 0029/01      SERIES 1: BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

**Dates:** 1937-1982; primarily undated

**Scope and Content:** Secondary source material, including transcripts from lectures about Shonnard, critics' statements and newspaper articles.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/02      SERIES 2: ARTICLES**

**Dates:** 1925-1980

**Scope and Content:** Published articles primarily from New Mexico including El Palacio.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Organization:** chronological by publication date

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/03      SERIES 3: EXHIBITION CATALOGS**

**Dates:** 1920-1977

**Scope and Content:** Exhibition catalogs from shows featuring work by Shonnard. Primarily group shows. Includes invitations to exhibitions.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Organization:** chronological by date of show

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/04      SERIES 4: PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Dates:** undated

**Scope and Content:** Polaroids of the inside of Shonnard's home and studio, many showing the art on the walls.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/05      SERIES 5: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS**

**Dates:** 1920s-1980s

**Scope and Content:** Materials documenting Shonnard's artistic career, primarily from New Mexico based publications. Some clippings were carelessly cropped. Sometime prior to 2021 the original clippings were replaced with photocopies.

**Arrangement:** 5 sub-series: 1. The 20s and 30s; 2. The 1950s; 3. The 1960s; 4. The 1970s and 80s; 5. Undated

**Organization:** clippings are filed by decade of publication

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/06      SERIES 6: CORRESPONDENCE**

**Dates:** 1947-1989

**Scope and Content:** Letters between colleagues, friends, and relatives of Shonnard. Correspondents include painter Wilford S. Conrow, Edgar L. Hewett, founder of the Museum of New Mexico, and other Museum of Art staff.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Location:** Box 187

**COLL 0029/07      SERIES 7: SKETCHES AND DRAWINGS**

**Dates:** bulk undated

**Scope and Content:** Some original sketches by Shonnard. Reference images used by Shonnard.

**Arrangement:** 1 series

**Location:** Oversize Box 68

**Collection 0029, Eugenie F. Shonnard: Container List**

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COLL 0029/01

SERIES 1: BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

**Box 187**

**Folder**

1. Statement by Alfred Morang, artist and critic, on EFS, undated  
Statement by Ben Bowen, critic, titled "About the Arts" re: EFS
2. Booklet extract, Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina, 1937  
-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., photocopy
4. Clipping, Santa Fe New Mexican, November 29, 1970,  
Arts Commission Honors EFS- reports award of Certificate of  
Merit for Outstanding Service to the Arts **ITEM MISSING**
5. Clipping, Taos News, December 3, 1970 regarding  
Certificate of Merit – includes biographic sketch
6. Clipping, Santa Fe New Mexican, June 17, 1979. -Reports gift  
from the late EFS. -Photos of EFS carving, house contents.  
-detailed review of her Civil War heritage.  
Autobiographic statement. Received by NMMOA on May 4,  
1990, photocopy
7. Articles (2) by Charles H. Caffin, art critic, undated.
8. Eulogy, no attribution, undated
9. Biographic sketch, 1940, from Who's Who
10. Transcript from Truman Matthews talk for EFS  
Transcript from Vivian Fiske talk for EFS
11. Memorial service program by Pedro Ribera-Ortega, undated.  
-Review of work in Rosario Chapel on reredos by EFS
12. Clipping, Albuquerque Tribune, October 14, 1955  
-Reports death of EFS' husband, Ludlum
13. Audio cassette, talk given by EFS on April 16, 1982 in NMMOA  
Library. **ITEM MISSING**

COLL 0029/02

SERIES 2: ARTICLES

**Box 187**

**Folder**

14. Note to El Palacio, Museum of New Mexico, October 1, 1925  
- EFS at Santa Fe working all summer at museum studio. Will take her work to Paris to be cast in bronze
15. Transcript from El Palacio, Vol. XXI, Nos. 3-5, September 1, 1926  
- EFS exhibit in Paris, described
16. San Miguel News, Vol. 5, No. 3, December 1927, EFS now permanently in Santa Fe. Cover is a picture of EFS at work on bust of Miguel Chavez/ article describes work on bust for St. Michaels's College
17. El Palacio, Vol. XXV, No. 26, December 29, 1928. Photocopy  
-Cover shows picture of Pueblo Indian in Wood by EFS  
-pgs. 97-98, exhibit by EFS of watercolors and oils
18. El Palacio, Vol. XLII, Nos. 4-6, January 27-February 3-10, 1937  
-reports on Indian Sculpture exhibit by EFS  
-Sketches her life and philosophy
19. The New Mexican, June 29, 1958, About the Arts column by Ben Bowen. Illustrated.
20. The New Mexican, July 3, 1960, About the Arts column by Donald Latimer, urges readers to visit the Rosario Chapel to see EFS' "new and noble reredos" -photocopy
21. Santa Fe Scene, Personalities, no attribution, May 26, 1962
22. The New Mexican, April 14, 1963, About the Arts column by Helen Petersen -General comments about EFS lifestyle
23. The New Mexican, June 16, 1964, Arts and Artists column by Dave Weber -discusses EFS' 'keenstone' and opening of her at NMMoA
24. American Artist Magazine, June 1966, The Sculpture of EFS by Enid Bell, original and copy. -anecdotal review of her artistic experiences, many illustrations, including first page photo of artist working at sculpture of Witter Bynner
25. El Palacio, Vol. 86, No. 2, Summer 1980. Photocopy. Photo of EFS house, front porch, temporary home for the NMMoA during its renovation



COLL 0029/03

## SERIES 3: EXHIBITION CATALOGS

**Box 187****Folder**

26. 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  
Catalog, Galleries J. Allard, 1926, watercolor and sculpture
27. Catalog, Art Museum School of American Research, December 4, 1927 to January 5, 1928. Exhibition of EFS sculpture. List of 61 works.
28. Tear sheet, El Palacio, Vol. XXV, No. 26, December 29, 1928. Cover (only): photo of Pueblo Indian in wood
29. Catalog, Official Art Exhibition of California Pacific International Exposition, May 29-November 11, 1935, 44 pp.
30. Extract, El Palacio, Vol. XLII, Nos. 4-6, January 27- February 3-10, 1937, Indian Sculpture exhibit by EFS.
31. Catalog (3) Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina, 1937
32. Catalog, School of American Research, Twenty-fifth Annual Exhibition of Painters and Sculptors of the Southwest, September 1-30, 1938. -photo on cover of EFS sculpture of Indian Head in Sandstone
33. Invitation, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. March 17, 1941
34. Catalog, La Quinta, Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 1942  
-EFS bronzes for sale
35. Program, unveiling of bronze plaque of late Justice Howard L. Bickley by EFS, October 18, 1948
36. Invitation and exhibition catalog, NMMoA, May 16 – June 13, 1954. An exercise honoring EFS – biographic essay by Reginald Fisher
37. Invitation, Roswell Museum and Art Center, Exhibition of Sculpture of EFS, November 9-December 10, 1969
38. Catalog, Governor's Gallery, First Anniversary Exhibition, April 26 – May 21, 1976
39. Invitation (French) Beaux-Arts, Paris, La Galerie Allard, 1926
40. Parish History, Church of the Holy Faith, La Villa Real de la Santa Fe, cover pictures sculpture by EFS

41. Periodical, Colorado Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, February 1977, article- Major Retrospective Exhibition of EFS' work Planned (no attribution), show from March 17-April 17. - includes lengthy biographical sketch and recital of previous exhibitions

0029/04

SERIES 4: PHOTOGRAPHS

**Box 187**

**Folder**

42. Residence of EFS, polaroid, showing paintings hung on walls, black and white, 3 ½ x 3 ½ (3); color, 3 ½ x 4 ¼ (2) - accompanying envelope from Tom Catron
43. Polaroid, color (22) descriptions on reverse sides  
Glossies, black and white (5) 3 ½ x 3 ½ descriptions on reverse sides

0029/05

SERIES 5: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

*Organized chronologically by decade*

**Box 187**

**Folder**

44. 1920s and 1930s
45. 1950s
46. 1960s
47. 1970s and 1980s
48. undated

0029/06

SERIES 6: CORRESPONDENCE

**Box 187**

**Folder**

49. 5-19-71: Photocopy of letter from Shonnard to Mr. Kenneth Bloomfield that contains her formula for making Keenstone. Original letter held by the New Mexico History Museum Archives, Shonnard Collection
- 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 Shonnard- Enclosing Wilfred S. Conrow's portrait of Shonnard, with high praise
- 8-12-47: Morley to Conrow- noting his action as taken in above letters
50. 11-18-64: Shonnard- "Babe" to Herbert C. Smyth, first cousin
- 2-8-65: Herbert C. Smyth to Candace Read, granddaughter, re: Shonnard, her first cousin
- 3-5-65: same parties
51. 4-13-78: Christy Shonnard Hedges to Edna Robinson
- 10-31-78: Christy Hedges to Don Strei
- 3-21-83: James E. Clary to Sandra D'Emilio
- 8-13-89: Candace Benyei to Museum of Fine Arts (NMMOA)

0029/07

SERIES 7: SKETCHES AND DRAWINGS

**Box 187**

**Folder**

53. Pages from scrapbook
- Photos of family members
- Reference images of Native Americans
- Reference images of animals
- LIFE magazine, undated, pages 63-70: illustrations, cave paintings, Stone Age art, Young Man (age 10) of Modern Art, Hasan Kaptan, Turkish

*Note: the following items were listed as "selected for archival storage, June 2003" on previous version of this Finding Aid*

- Oversize Box 68:**
- (3) expositions posters with Native American head design for Shonnard exhibition in Paris, poor condition, undated, original drawing, pen and ink lettering
  - (2) Les Hommes du Jour, French publication, 1922- one has an original signature by Mateo Hernandez
  - (1) carbon print image of Mucha, 1906
  - (1) sheet of brown paper missing a photograph of Shonnard at the age of 20, 1906
  - (1) black and white photograph of a young girl, Shonnard (?), undated
  - (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, undated
  - (1) certificate to Shonnard from the New York School of Applied Design for Women, 1908