

Henry McCarter register of paintings

MS.018

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

118-128 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

archives@pafa.org

215-972-2066

Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Henry McCarter (1864-1942)
Title	Henry McCarter register of paintings
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	undated
Extent	½ document box
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	Consists of about 275 3 x 5 inch index cards. Each card carries a description of a painting, measurements, and information on exhibition history and disposition of the work. About half of the cards carry no title.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

One of the earliest Academy faculty members to reflect a modernist sensibility, Henry McCarter was affiliated with the Pennsylvania Academy for almost forty-five years. As an Academy student from 1879 to 1882, he studied under Thomas Eakins, but Eakins's emphasis on realism alienated the dreamy McCarter, whose interests were already leaning toward illustration. More influential was McCarter's five-year stay in Paris in the late 1880s where he worked with such artists as Pierre Puvis de Chavannes and Léon Bonnat, and apprenticed in the lithography workshop of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

By 1895 McCarter had established himself in New York and commenced a long and successful career as an illustrator. About 1900, McCarter was asked by Academy Director Harrison Morris to teach an illustration class. He moved back to Philadelphia and remained as an instructor until his death in 1942.

McCarter began to work more frequently in oil painting around 1920, concentrating on landscapes and flower studies. His work is characterized by beautiful draftsmanship, vibrant colors, and a love of the fantastic. Many of McCarter's foremost artistic concerns — experimentation with nonliteral color, attention to light effects, and a desire to visually represent sound — are evidence of his modernist mindset. His openness to new ideas influenced his students, who included the important American modernists Arthur B. Carles and Charles Demuth.

Scope and Contents note

The paintings register, titled "Register of Paintings Distributed to Former Students and Friends after the Artist's Death," consists of about 275 3 x 5 inch index cards. Each card carries a description of a painting, measurements, and information on exhibition history and disposition of the work. About half of the cards carry no title. The register seems to be the work of his executors. Pencil annotations record the number for paintings included in the memorial exhibition of 1944. Disposition of the works is typed on the back of the cards and there are other annotations made as late as 1956.

Also see the Elizabeth Spalding collection for an unpublished paper about McCarter.

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

Henry McCarter register of paintings (MS.018)

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

Provenance note

The provenance of this item is unknown.

Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Paintings register		1	1