

Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Faith Kollar

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James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts.
Title	Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts Collection
Date	1900-2000
Extent	2.5 Linear feet
Language	English

History

To humble beginnings, the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts was founded in 1883 by 25 professional and business leaders at the time, fourteen men and eleven women. In the beginning they owned six works of art and were housed in one room in the newly built Minneapolis Public Library. The Society's primary duty was to develop an art culture in the city and present exhibitions, but they dreamed of a greater "temple for art and music" that would include galleries, a school, and an orchestra hall. The Society founded the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts in 1886, which was also initially housed in the library building. The school would later change its name to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

By 1911 the Society's members had raised enough funds to build their own building, which was planned to be built in stages. In 1915, the central part of the new Minneapolis Institute of Arts building was finished and the Society, both its art gallery and school, moved into their new home. In 1965, the Society added a third organization, the Children's Theatre Company, which was given its own theatre in the 1970s expansion of the Society of Fine Arts Park.

The Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts was the umbrella organization of the MIA, MCAD, and Children's Theater Company, all housed on the Society of Fine Arts Park. The Children's Theater Company separated itself from the Society in 1975. They continued to take charge of the MIA and MCAD until 1987, when they divided their money and staff amongst the two and gave them free reign to run the college and the museum as they saw fit, essentially dissolving the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts.

Description of Collection

The MSFA collection is divided into 6 boxes. The first box houses newspaper clippings from 1922 to 1987 on the Society and its history as well as promotional material consisting of informational guides about the organization. The second box houses solely promotional material including invitations, programs, and exhibition pamphlets. The third box is newsletters, news releases, and reports. Box four includes reports from the Board of Trustees from 1927-1988. And boxes five and six include annual reports and early exhibition catalogs.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Related Materials

Related Material

Separate collections exist for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and the Children's Theater Company.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Children's Theatre Company and School of Minneapolis..
- Minneapolis College of Art and Design.
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Subject(s)

- Art -- Minnesota
- Art museums -- Minnesota.
- Art schools -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Theater -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- History.

Clippings

Collection Inventory

Clippings		
	Box	Folder
Clippings: General 1922-1972	1	1
Clippings: General 1973-1975	1	2
Clippings: General 1976-1978	1	3
Clippings: General 1979-1987	1	4
Clippings: Centennial 1983	1	5
Clippings: History 1899-1959	1	6
Promotional Material		
	Box	Folder
Information Guides 1907-1923	1	7
Information Guides 1963-1966	1	8
Information Guides 1973-1974	1	9

Miscellaneous

Invitations 1900-1984	2	1
Invitations No Dates	2	2
Miscellaneous Promo Material 1962-1973	2	3
Miscellaneous Promo Material 1974	2	4
Miscellaneous Promo Material 1974	2	5
Miscellaneous Promo Material 1975-1984	2	6
Miscellaneous Promo Material No Dates	2	7
Miscellaneous		
	Box	Folder
Miscellaneous No Dates	2	8
News Releases and Newsletters		
	Box	Folder
Newsletters 1917-1973	3	1
News Releases 1970-1972	3	2

Reports

Reports		
	Box	Folder
Accessions Reports 1978-	3	3
Annual Meeting and Report 1981-1984	3	4
Executive Committee Meetings 1972-1987	3	5
Guaranty Fund Reports 1960-1982	3	6
Membership Reports 1927-1984	3	7
Membership Annual Meeting 1978-1988	3	8
Members Travel Reports 1973-1974	3	9
Miscellaneous Reports 1883-1941	3	10
Nominating Committee 1978-1991	3	11
Progress Reports 1973-1988	3	12
Quarterly Reports 1973-1985	3	13
Board of Trustees 1960-1971	4	1

Reports

Board of Trustees 1973	4	2
Board of Trustees 1974	4	3
Board of Trustees 1975	4	4
Board of Trustees 1976	4	5
Board of Trustees 1977	4	6
Board of Trustees 1978-1985	4	7
Annual Reports 1927-1952	5	1
Annual Reports 1956-1961	5	2
Annual Reports 1962/63-1966	5	3
Annual Reports 1967-1971	5	4
Annual Reports 1972-1974	5	5
Annual Reports 1975-1979	5	6
Annual Reports 1981-1984	6	1
Annual Reports 1985-1987	6	2

Exhibition Catalogs

Exhibition Catalogs

Scope and Contents note

Exhibition catalogs from 1883 to 1914, before the existence of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, when the society existed as an art gallery in the Minneapolis Public Library.

	Box	Folder
Exhibition Catalogs 1883-1897	6	3
Exhibition Catalogs 1900	6	4
Exhibition Catalogs 1901-1903	6	5
Exhibition Catalogs 1905-1910	6	6
Exhibition Catalogs 1911-1914	6	7