

History of the  
ART HISTORY SECTION  
of The Faculty Women's Club  
of The University of Michigan

A copy of this is also in the files  
of the Art Coordinator. D.C.

History of the  
ART HISTORY SECTION  
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COMPILED FROM THE CLUB NOTEBOOKS and records,  
along with data from diaries of charter members  
and vivid memories

By Angelyn Stevens

for a report to the May meeting in 1968 at the home of  
Dorothy Soule, upon which occasion we honored our charter  
members. Updated to 1973.

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The Faculty Women's Club was organized in 1922 by the wife of  
of Marion Leroy Burton, president of the University of  
Michigan from 1920 to 1925. The formation of an Art Section  
was somewhat later. Those members who were charter members  
recall the date as being between 1925 and 1930. Before then,  
the same people found congenial fellowship in their neighborhood  
on the west side of Ann Arbor. They loved to carry their  
fancywork and enjoy tea in each other's homes. The average  
attendance was about eight. The names of some of the first  
members were as follows:

Mrs. Charles Good  
Mrs. E.A. Walter  
Mrs. Carl Rufus  
Mrs. Frieda Blanchard  
Mrs. Byron Soule  
Mrs. Amos Morris  
Mrs. Mary Muyskens  
Mrs. Carleton Angell

When sections were being formed about 1925 or after, the group proposed they be regarded as an art section. Their proposal did not fit the organization's by-laws, since each section must have a purposive program and an open membership. Mere needlework did not constitute serious endeavor. Many of the members had engaged in hooking rugs. They decided, now, to do only original designs in their rugs. At the same time, they adopted a plan for studying art history, reading by turns, chapter by chapter, from a good art book. We are grateful that our charter members devised so good a scheme to stimulate more and more creative interests. The early designs for hooked rugs were exhibited at Faculty Women's functions. They are now cherished memories. Blanche Griffiths still recalls Mrs. Finch's purple and yellow iris against beige, her own abstract of grays and blacks (entitled "Gray Matter"), and Dorothy Soule's circular design of milkweed pods.

For the second exhibit the following year, it was decided to hold a stage performance in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. The Art History group volunteered to stage a tableau of a famous picture. The painting by Rembrandt of a "Woman Paring

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"Her Nails" was selected. Curtains were drawn back to reveal a breath-taking life-size portrait in the exact colors of the original, posed by Mrs. Muyskens. The following year the story of the Willow Plate was read by Mrs. Anning as narrator, while members of the group enacted it in actual color.

Membership grew, adding such names as Mrs. William Kynoch, Mrs. Avarad Fairbanks, Mrs. Irving Leonard, Mrs. Emmons, Mrs. Gustafson, Mrs. Eastlick, Mrs. Gordy, Mrs. Warner Rice, Mrs. Merwin Waterman.

After the episode of hooked rugs as a craft, the interests spread in many directions. After reading the minutes of nearly forty years I am amazed at how much some of our members have digested. the history of art by countries, by periods and events, by crafts, by printing, by direct contact with artists, by visiting museums, by trying one's own hand, by the contributions of individual members of their specialized interests and experiences when travelling, by understanding the simple folk art and its statement of life, by learning about different techniques and how the perfection of technique is the basis for communication and communication the ground for adventure and peace. Leonardo, Rembrandt, and Michaelangelo were more frequently discussed than any other artists. Any of us who have had the program at such times are the most enthusiastic for their repetition and the delight of seeing again slides

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or photographs of etchings or paintings. They are always new. The history of furniture design is more specialized still and gave a new turn to the way the spirit carries us beyond simple need. Celtic art and Greek art were a special treat when we had members from Ireland and Greece. Similarly Hogarth when presented by Dr. Hinds, experiences not repeatable. An early program in 1949 treated Wyeth as an illustrator. A year ago we had a most able review of his mature work, almost twenty years later.

During the last ten years we have enjoyed many museum tours as well as fine programs of slides. In 1972 we worked on Chinese Art. In 1973 we are doing Contemporary Sculpture.

Each year the May meeting has been a potluck luncheon and a planning session for the next year's program.

A record of programs, beginning in 1941:

1941 plus  
Raphael  
Leonardo  
Prehistoric art  
Egyptian art  
Greek art  
Van Loon: The Arts; chapter on Age of Pericles  
Frank Lloyd Wright  
Gombrich  
Miniatures  
Pots, pans, earrings and spoons  
Van Loon: The Arts; Jewish and Christian art  
Byzantine art  
Russian art  
Art of Islam  
Art of Medieval Persia

Romanesque art  
 Music (Gregorian chants, etc.)  
 Gothic art

Visits to art museums 1948--

Philadelphia  
 Florence: St. Francis and Giotto  
 Discussion on recent exhibitions  
 Florentine painters and Ann Arbor sculptors  
 The beginning of oil painting  
 Van Loon on Titian, Leonardo, Raphael, Jan Van Eyck  
 Michaelangelo  
 Pre-Columbian art  
 Dürer  
 El Greco and Velasquez  
 Frans Hals and Rembrandt

Contemporary illustrators

Norman Rockwell  
 Dean Cornwall  
 Lloyd C. Douglas The Robe  
 Alajalov (Post, Time)  
 N.C. Wyeth  
 Ernest Hamlin Baker  
 Stevan Dohanos (Post)  
 Gladys R. Davis (contemporary magazines)  
 Arthur Zsyk (Coronet, Colliers)

First luncheon at the home of Mrs. Soule,  
 November 9, 1950.

Illustrators, continued

Mario Cooper (Colliers, Woman's Home Companion)  
 Boris Artzybasheff  
 John Atherton (Bird calendar)  
 Marcel Vertes (Vogue, Harper's Bazaar perfume ads)  
 Walter Biggs  
 John Coppin (Mich. artsit, artist for AAA)  
 Amos Sewell (Post)  
 Martha Sowers (Life, Colliers, British merchant  
 navy pictures)  
 Charles Dana Gibson (Gibson Girl)

The language of design

Gombrich

The Study of Art  
 Realm of Art  
 Early Christian Art

Women Artists and Sculptors

Pictures of art from travels in Portugal and Spain  
 Sculptor Melvina Hoffman  
 April 16, 1953 -- Mrs. Howell Taylor on Women Artists  
 of Washtenaw County.

Mary Cassatt  
 Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, sculptress  
 Laura Fraser (animals and medals)  
 Visit to University Museum  
 Doris Lee Branch  
 Mina Winslow showed paintings and etchings

December 15, 1953 -- the world's great madonnas

Program on miniatures  
 Mrs. Reischer showed color slides and explained  
 her method of working  
 Mrs. Mozmir Friuta -- paintings, and sketches  
 by her husband and herself  
 Mrs. Kynoch -- showed her paintings  
 Mrs. Marion Brackett Titus talked about modern  
 sculpture and about her teacher, Ivan Mestrovic  
 Mrs. Hobart showed her African paintings and work  
 of other artists in Africa

Gallery visits by individuals, described to the group  
 National Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
 showed representative pictures  
 Isabella Stewart Gardner -- Boston  
 Huntington Gallery, San Marino, Calif.  
 National Gallery in New York City  
 Impressionist art  
 Detroit Institute of Arts  
 William Rockwell Nelson Museum, Kansas City, MO.  
 Joslyn Memorial Museum in Omaha  
 Winterthur Museum in Delaware  
 Toledo Museum of Art

Miniature albums, Philadelphia  
 Flower paintings  
 Christmas story  
 Self-portraits  
 Children in art  
 Degas in the Metropolitan

Three American water-colorists  
 Winslow Homer  
 Thomas Eakins  
 John Singer Sargent

Michaelangelo  
 Great Landscapes  
 English Watercolors  
 Daumier  
 Hogarth  
 Some pictures in European museums



Pre-Columbian Mayan Art  
 Some less-well-known madonnas  
 Ancient Aztec art  
 Early Indian art in the United States

Mrs. Boulton from England spoke on members of the  
 Royal Academy of Arts in London  
 Italian Painting of the 14th and 17th centuries  
 Women artists  
 Modern art museum in New York  
 Duveen and Knoedler Modern Art Museum

#### Folk Art

New England butter molds  
 Madonna slides  
 Folk art in Poland  
 Pennsylvania Dutch folk art  
 Metal enamelling  
 History of hooked rugs and weaving  
 Everybody bring an article of folk art

Exhibit of British paintings, Toledo

#### History of Furniture

Antique painted furniture  
 British 16th century  
 Chippendale  
 Dutch  
 Louis XIV  
 Louis XV  
 Modern American

#### Metropolitan Seminars

What to look for in a painting  
 Expressionism  
 Composition as pattern  
 Composition as structure  
 Tempera and oils  
 Water colors  
 History of painting  
 Artist as social critic  
 Classical backgrounds  
 Michaelangelo  
 Slides of the life of Christ  
 Men and mystery in the Middle Ages  
 The Early Renaissance  
 Botticelli  
 Trip to Toledo  
 Slides of Toledo Spain and El Greco  
 High Renaissance Period  
 Titian  
 Rembrandt  
 Leonardo  
 Goya



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Symbolism in art  
Symbolism in Religious art  
Christmas Art

Historical background of art in Europe and America

Medieval art

Sacred and profane art in Renaissance

Romantic art

French art period  
Realism and symbolism in realism  
Pre-Raphaelites  
Contemporary art

Coming of the Baroque  
Rubens to Rembrandt  
Rembrandt  
The rise of the North  
The Islamic challenge  
German influences of Art  
Dürer  
Scandinavian art  
Leonardo

1963-64  
Polish art  
Formosa  
Trip to museum in Flint  
Modern American painting and sculpture  
History of Christmas cards and madonnas  
History of weaving  
Slides of Coventry Cathedral Chagall Chapel  
in Israel and Grunewald  
Jackson Pollock  
Impressionism  
Stained glass windows  
American painting to 1913  
Tour of New York art museums  
German painting  
Greek art with slides: architecture, sculpture, mosaic  
European cathedrals (slides)  
Japanese art  
Bernard Berenson  
What is modern art  
How to look at sculpture  
Print-making  
Visit to Weddige's studio  
Italian Baroque painting and architecture  
Celtic art  
Pictures in Florence

History of Currier and Ives prints  
William Blake prints  
What is a print  
What is Pop Art

1966-67

Contemporary religious art  
Visit to sculpture studio of Prof. McClure  
Arts and Crafts of New Zealand  
Christmas story in art

Trip to Toledo: Age of Rembrandt

1968-69

Donald Hall on Henry Moore  
Brass rubbings  
Andrew Wyeth  
The Plummer collection (Oriental)  
Visit to New South Wing of Detroit  
University Art Museum  
Continuing study of Oriental art  
Two years on Chinese Art  
Swing to modern architecture  
Modern sculpture  
Origins and evolution  
History of sculpture of this century  
Contemporary outdoor sculpture