

**Finding Aid to  
The Marilyn G. Francis Collection on  
Mary Nimmo Moran  
1979-1984  
Archives of Women Artists**

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Collection Processed by: Sarah Faye Phillips (Spring, 2006 )

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## Overview

### Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts,  
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center  
1250 New York Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Email: [lrc@nmwa.org](mailto:lrc@nmwa.org)  
Phone: 202-783-5000

### Title:

The Marilyn G. Francis Collection on Mary Nimmo Moran

### Provenance:

In 200X, this collection was donated to the National Museum of Women in the Arts by Marilyn G. Francis of Peabody, Massachusetts.

### Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1979-1984

### Physical Description:

2 boxes

### Summary:

The Marilyn G. Francis Collection on Mary Nimmo Moran is housed in two acid-free boxes in the Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center. The bulk of the collection features correspondence, largely by Francis from 1979 to 1984. Manuscripts that she submitted for publication are included, as well as the fine draft for publication in *The Woman's Art Journal*. The photographs and their accompanying negatives are all reproductions of late 19th Century photographs or of Nimmo Moran's etchings.

### Finding Aid URL:

[https://nmwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/4.3.4.2-francis\\_collection\\_on\\_mary\\_nimmo\\_moran.pdf](https://nmwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/4.3.4.2-francis_collection_on_mary_nimmo_moran.pdf)

## Administrative Information

### Access Information:

Unrestricted

### Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, The Marilyn G. Francis Collection on Mary Nimmo Moran, Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

### Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

### Related Materials Note:

#### Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center (LRC) Collection

Giffuni, Cathy. The etchings of Mary Nimmo Moran: a museum guide. 1986. (VF MON N44 .M819 1986)

Koehler, S.R. Exhibition of the work of the women etchers of America: Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 1887. Boston: A. Mudge & Son, 1887. (VF SUBJECT—Printmakers--Exhibitions)

Moran, Mary Nimmo, 1842-1899, artist file

Moran, Mary Nimmo. Prints of nature: poetic etchings of Mary Nimmo Moran: [exhibition] Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, September 7-December 2, 1984. Tulsa, Okla: University of Tulsa, c. 1984. (VF MON N44 .M819 1984)

O'Brien, Marueen C. Mandel and Parrish, Patricia C. F. The American painter-etcher movement. Southampton, N.Y.: Parrish Art Museum, c. 1984. (NE2003.7 .027 1984)

Peet, Phyllis. American women of the etching revival: February 9-May 9, 1988, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta, Ga.: High Museum of Art, c. 1988 (NE2003.7 .P44 1988)

Tahir Gallery. American Women Artists: One Hundred Years of Original Prints: October 14-November 5, 1983. 1986. (VF CAT NE508 .A44 1983)

The Museum also holds in their permanent collection the following works by Mary Nimmo Moran:

*Gardiner's Bay, Long Island, Seen From Fresh Pond* (1881)  
*The Goose Pond, East Hampton* (1881)  
*'Tween the Gloaming and the Mirk, When the Kye Come Hame* (1883)  
*The Edge of Georgica Pond, East Hampton* (1885)  
*Interior of a California Forest (after Thomas Moran)* (1888)

**Processed by:**

Sarah Fay Philips, Spring 2006

**Processing Note:**

An updated finding aid was created by Archival Assistant Emily Moore in the spring of 2020.

## **Biographical Note**

Marilyn G. Francis (1922-2012) was an American painter and art historian. She was a contributing writer to *Dress*, the journal of the Costume Society of America in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. She was also a volunteer at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the mounting of their Annual Exhibitions. She received her B.F.A. from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and a B.A. in Art History from Montclair State College. The Alumni Association of Montclair State College gave Francis a grant in 1979 which made possible her research, which constitutes this collection, on Mary Nimmo Moran.

Widely considered to be the foremost American based woman etcher of the nineteenth century, Mary Nimmo Moran (1842-1899), produced a large number of prints that were celebrated for their boldness and originality. She immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1847 with her brother and father. The family settled in Crescentville, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia, where their neighbors were the family of Thomas Moran, the American landscape painter. At eighteen Mary Nimmo began to study drawing and painting with Moran; two years later they were married and moved to Philadelphia. The couple had two daughters and a son, and in 1872 they relocated to Newark, New Jersey. While Moran achieved success with his oil renditions of the western United States, Nimmo Moran concentrated on painting the landscape near their home. She sometimes traveled with her husband-to the West, Florida, and Europe-during the early years of their marriage. She came into her own as an artist in 1879, when Thomas introduced to the technique of etching. Nimmo Moran was the first female member of both the New York Etching Club and the Royal Society of Painters-Etchers in London. Rather than being overshadowed by her spouse, on many occasions when both husband and wife exhibited etchings in the same show, it was Mary's work that was singled out for praise. She also received a prize medallion for her work shown at the *World's Columbian Exposition* in Chicago in 1893. In 1884 the Morans built a new

home on Long Island, the surrounding area of which became the subject of many of Nimmo Moran's most successful etchings. After nursing her daughter Ruth back to health from a bout of typhoid fever, Nimmo Moran died in 1899 of after contracting the same illness.

## Scope and Content Note

The Marilyn G. Francis Collection on Mary Nimmo Moran consists of material gathered in the process of writing the manuscript "Mary Nimmo Moran, Painter-Etcher, 1842-1899". Approximately one third of the collection is correspondence, largely by Francis from 1979 to 1984. Manuscripts that she submitted for publication are included, as well as the final draft for publication in *The Woman's Art Journal*. The photographs and their accompanying negatives are all reproductions of late 19th Century photographs or of Nimmo Moran's etchings.

## Organization and Arrangement Information

### Arrangement Note:

The collection is contained in two acid-free boxes, located in the Library and Research Center. The collection, processed in 2006, was separated into eight series and re-housed in acid-free folders. Staples and paperclips were removed and photographs and clippings were placed in mylar housings.

Series I:	Correspondence
Series II:	Manuscripts
Series III:	Clippings
Series IV:	Printed Matter
Series V:	Reproductions
Series VI:	Financial Information
Series VII:	Thomas Moran
Series VIII:	Photographs

### Series I: Correspondence

This series consists largely of correspondence by Marilyn G. Francis from 1979-1984. There are a few items of correspondence which she received reproductions of, including a 1958 letter from Jacob Kainen.

### Series II: Manuscripts

The seven manuscripts for the article "Mary Nimmo Moran, Painter-Etcher 1842-1899" are included in this series in various stages of completion and with annotation by the author and others. This series also contains research notes and cards.

### Series III: Clippings

The clippings in this series span over a century (1881-1984) and are news articles or obituaries of Mary Nimmo Moran or Thomas Moran, and later 20th Century articles on the artists of East Hampton.

### Series IV: Printed Matter

This series contains three catalogues from late 19th Century exhibits in which Nimmo Moran displayed work. There are also multiple publications from the 20th Century about East Hampton and etching.

### Series V: Reproductions

This series contains approximately five dozen photocopied reproductions of etchings by Mary Nimmo Moran created by Marilyn G. Francis during her research. There are also a number of photocopied reproductions of some of the photographs from Series VII. Many of the reproductions are annotated.

### Series VI: Financial Information

This series contains information relating to the grant that Marilyn G. Francis applied for and received for funding the research on Mary Nimmo Moran, as well as the documentation regarding her expenditures in completing her research.

### Series VII: Thomas Moran

The material in this series is either about Mary Nimmo Moran's husband Thomas Moran or had been organized by Marilyn G. Francis in a file on Thomas Moran.

### Series VIII: Photographs

This series contains photographic reproductions of photographs of Mary Nimmo Moran and her family and a dozen and a half photographic reproductions of her etchings. Approximately half of the photographs were organized in envelopes within a scrapbook and the order has been maintained, although excessive duplicates were removed.

## **Names and Subject Terms**

Moran, Mary Nimmo, 1842-1899

Moran, Thomas, 1837-1926

## **Container Inventory**

### **Series #1: Correspondence**

Box # Folder Title

Correspondent(s)

1	The American Art Journal, 1980	Van Norman Turano, Jane Kuchna, Jayne A.
1	Amon Carter Museum, 1980	Clark, Carol
1	Ashmolean Museum, 1980	Taylor,
1	The Athenaeum, 1980	Magee, Eileen M.
1	Baigell, Matthew, 1980	
1	British Museum, 1980	
1	Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982	Elston, Elizabeth
1	Drisler, Debbie, 1979	
1	Drisler, Emily Field, 1979	
1	East Hampton Free Library, 1979-1984	King, Dorothy
1	Free Library of Philadelphia, 1980-1982	Doms, Keith Looney, Robert F.
1	Fryxell, Fritiof M., 1980-1984	
1	Garzoli, John H., 1979-1980	
1	The Graduate School & University Center, 1980	Gerdtts, William H.
1	Guild Hall, 1979-1980	Ferren, Rae Najdzionek, Christine Wolfe, Judith
1	Kean, Thomas, 1983-1984	
1	Kennedy Galleries, 1982	
1	Lafayette College, Skillman Library, 1979	Robbins, Ronald E. Pierce, Constance Royer, Joyce A.
1	The Mariners Museum, 1979	
1	The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1980	Howat, John
1	Miller, Jo, 1981-1982	
1	Mobley, William Frost, 1979-1980	
1	ms. magazine, n.d.	Nelson, Martha
1	Museum of Fine Arts, 1979-1980	Lampert, Margaret Ackley, Clifford Bugnitz, Pat Messinger, Norman Thurlow, Fearn C. Buki, Zoltan Henry, Penelope Wright Pisano, Ron
1	National Park Service, 1979-1980	
1	Newark Museum, 1981	
1	New Jersey State Museum, 1979	
1	The Parrish Museum, 1979	
1	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1979-1980	Foster, Kathleen A. Friedman, Ann
1	Permissions, 1980-1983	Guild Hall Museum Zimmerli, Jane Voorhees Art Museum – Rutgers University



		The Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art
1	Petteys, Chris, 1980-1983	
1	Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1980	McNulty, Kneeland
1	Princeton University	Ross, Barbara The Art Museum Princeton University Library
1	Queens College, English Dept., 1980	Finlay, Nancy Wilkins, Thurman
1	Radcliffe College, Schlesinger Library, 1979	King, Patricia
1	The Rosenbach Museum & Library, 1980	Segal, Arline Driver, Clive E.
1	Royal Society of Painter-Etchers & Engravers, 1982	Spender, Michael
1	The Ruskin Galleries, Bembridge School, 1980	
1	Rutgers University, Art Gallery, 1980-1984	Pruce/Gatrai, Marilyn J. Wechsler, Jeffrey Schnieder, Anne
1	Sabine, Julia, 1980	
1	Smith College Museum of Art, 1979	Swenson, Inga Christine Chetham, Charles
1	Smithsonian Institute, 1922-1981	Kainen, Jacob Harris, Elizabeth Andrews, Martha Shipman National Collection of Fine Arts McKnulty, Kneeland Pennsylvania Museum of Art Gerds, Abigail Booth Allen, Rachel M. Russell, Martha Vacek, Carolyn Archives of American Art Field, Virginia Archives of American Art – New England Area Center McCoy, Garrett Pancza, Arleen Ratzenberger, Kathy Holmes, Mary Moran Tassin
1	The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1979	Hansen, James L.

1	Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences, 1980	
1	Thirteen - WNET, 1981	Bauman, Suzanne Kramer, Louise
1	Thomas Gilcrease Insitute of American History and Art, 1979-1980	Roden, Anne Edward, G.P.
1	University of Iowa, 1980	Parry, Ellwood C., III
1	University of Notre Dame, Dept. of Art, 1980	Fern, Thomas
1	The University of Tennessee, 1979	Nimmo, Dan
1	Vose Galleries of Boston, 1979	
1	Woman's Art Journal, 1982-1984	Fine, Elsa Honig
1	World's Columbian Commission, 1894	Thacher, John Boyd
1	Yale University Art Gallery, 1979	Hoffman, Rosemary
1	Unidentified Correspondents, 1982	

## Series #2: Manuscripts

### Box # Folder Title

1	The American Art Journal MS
1	Woman's Art Journal MS Handwritten End-Notes
1	Draft with notes from husband Edward Francis
1	Rough draft
1	Woman's Art Journal MS [with photo insert notations]
1	Woman's Art Journal MS [duplicate]
1	Woman's Art Journal MS [edited fine copy]
1	Research Cards
1	Rearch Notes

## Series #3: Clippings

### Box # Folder Title

2	1881 – New York Herald
2	1882 – The Bolton Evening News
2	1899 – East Hampton Star
2	1924 – Santa Barbara Mercury Press
2	1950 – The Sunday Star
2	1976 – The New York Times
2	1980 – The New York Times
2	1981 – The New York Times

- 2 1982
- 2 1984
- 2 n.d.
- 2 The American Barbison, 1883 By: Charles Burr Todd Lippincott's Magazine
- 2 Biographical Sketches of American Artists
- 2 East Hampton: The American Barbison, 1969
- 2 Explorer in Search of Beauty
- 2 Home – Thoughts From Afar: Letts of Thomas Moran to Mary Nimmo Moran, 1967
- 2 The Moran Family, 1893
- 2 The Quarterly Illustrator
- 2 Notable American Women
- 2 Thomas Moran: Artist of the Mountains
- 2 By: Thurman Wilkins
- 2 Wisconsin at the Centennial
- 2 By: Louise Phelps Kellogg

#### **Series #4: Printed Matter**

##### Box # Folder Title

- 2 1630-1976, Life Styles East Hampton, 1976
- 2 Artists and East Hampton, 1976
- 2 A 100 Year Perspective
- 2 A Catalogue of the Complete Etched Works of Thomas Moran, N.A. and M. Nimmo Moran, S.P.E., 1889
- 2 Exhibition at C. Klackner's
- 2 East Hampton Free Library Newsletter
- 2 Exhibition Catalogue of the Work of the Women Etchers of America, 1888
- 2 The Union League Club
- 2 Exhibition Catalogue of the Work of the Women Etchers of America, 1887
- 2 Museum of Fine Arts
- 2 "In Memory of Mary Nimmo Moran 1842-1899"
- 2 The Museum, Spring-Summer 1963
- 2 Published by The Newark Museum
- 2 New York Public Library Special Collections Rules for Use
- 2 The New York Etching Club 1877-1894, 1979
- 2 An Exhibition at the Montclair Art Museum

#### **Series #5: Reproductions**

##### Box # Folder Title

- 2 Etching Reproductions
- 2 Etching Photocopies

## **Series #6: Financial Information**

Box # Folder Title

- 2 Correspondence  
Montclair State College Alumni Association
- 2 Expenditures
- 2 Grants

## **Series #7: Thomas Moran**

Box # Folder Title

- 2 Biographical Art Collection
- 2 Correspondence, n.d., Baltimore and Ohio R.R. Museum
- 2 The Drawings and Watercolors of Thomas Moran (1837-1926)  
Exhibition prepared by Thomas S. Fern, 1976
- 2 Newark, New Jersey Property
- 2 Newspaper Clippings, 1872-1926  
New York Times  
Balton Evening News  
New York Tribune  
Daily Morning Chronicle
- 2 Research Notes
- 2 Thomas Moran (1837-1926)  
Selection and Catalogue by William H. Gerds, 1963  
Essays by Louise Nelson and Samuel Sachs II

## **Series #8: Photographs**

Box # Folder Title

- 2 Photograph Scrapbook
- 2 Photograph Reproductions