

Finding Aid to the Eulabee Dix Papers, 1900-1987 Archives of Women Artists

Finding Aid Prepared by and Collection Processed by:
Patrick Brown, (August 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
Phone: 202-783-5000

Title:

Eulabee Dix Papers

Provenance:

Prior to the acquisition by National Museum of Women in the Arts, the collection was kept by the artist and her family. Most of the collection was inherited by Dix's children, Joan Becker Gaines and Philip Dix Becker, and Dix's nephew, Samuel Dix.

The Eulabee Dix Papers was part of a larger gift to the National Museum of Women in the Arts by Joan Becker Gaines, the daughter of Eulabee Dix, and her extended family in 1989.

In November, 2017, Susan Leete donated letters written by Dix to her mother-in-law, Doris Leete, clippings, exhibition materials, and ephemera. An inventory of this donation is available.

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1900-1987

Physical Description:

6 boxes (approx. 5.5 linear feet)

Summary:

Eulabee Dix (1878–1961) is most famous for her work as a miniature painter. Her work is represented in several institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Portrait Gallery. The Eulabee Dix Papers include correspondence with friends, patrons, and galleries; photographs; news-clippings; and two scrapbooks containing reproductions of Dix's work. Manuscripts by Dix of a memoir and a history of miniatures, several medals the artist won, and her palette and brush are all part of the collection.

Finding Aid URL:

Administrative Information

Access Information:

Unrestricted. The sketch of Eulabee Dix by John Butler Yeats has been moved to the museum's permanent collection and is in art storage. *Please contact library staff up to three weeks in advance to allow registrar staff time to pull the work.*

Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, Eulabee Dix Papers, 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:

A sketch of Eulabee Dix by John Butler Yeats, 1910, is in the permanent collection of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Grand Rapids Public Library houses the Dix Family Papers, which includes photographs of her works, exhibition pamphlets and ephemera, and correspondence from family members regarding her work, and an unpublished memori written by Dix's daughter, Joan Gaines.

<https://www.grpl.org/uploads/grhsc/421.pdf>

The Library and Research Center maintains a vertical file on Eulabee Dix, which includes articles and other secondary research material.

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery maintains a file on Eulabee Dix – mainly concerning her portrait of Samuel Longhorne Clemens.

Princeton University Library houses John Butler Yeats' letters to Eulabee Dix.

Processed by:

Processed by Wendy Bellion, 1994.

Re-processed by Patrick Brown, August 2006.

Susan Leete's materials accreted by Jennifer Page, February 2018.

Processing and Preservation Note:

The collection is housed in six boxes located in the Library and Research Center. Initially the collection was processed and its finding aid was written in 1994 by Wendy Bellion. In 2006, the collection was re-housed. The collection was reprocessed into seven series (Correspondence, Printed Matter, Writings, Clippings, Photographs, Memorabilia, and Sketch by John Butler Yeats), and placed in acid-free folders, customized wrappers and portfolios, and mylar containers where appropriate. Torn, cockled, and other damaged objects, generally, were not mended because most of the damaged objects are brittle. Staples and metal pins were replaced by non-reactive plastic clips.

Biographical Note

Eulabee Dix (1878-1961) was born in Greenfield, Illinois. In 1899, Dix moved to New York City to study and begin her professional career as a miniature painter. Wealthy patrons commissioned portraits by Dix of themselves and their children. Dix's portraits were part of a growing interest in miniature painting – a continuation of the nostalgia and romanticism of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Dix had solo exhibitions of both commissioned works and portraits of her children. She also painted larger works of flowers. While living in Los Angeles, she had an exhibit of paintings of Hollywood celebrities' doorways. Dix lived and worked throughout the United States and Europe, finally settling in Lisbon, Portugal. She died in 1961 while visiting her son in Connecticut.

Dix's work is in several institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisbon; the National Museum of American Art, Washington DC; and the National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC. The National Museum of Women in the Arts houses over 86 paintings by Dix in its permanent collection.

Chronology

1878	Eulabee Dix is born in Greenfield, IL.
c.1898	Studies at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts.
1899	Paints Self-Portrait. Moves to New York..
1900-1902	Studies miniature painting at the Art Students League with William Whittmore.
1902-1909	Lives and works at Carnegie Hall.
1904	Travels to Europe in the Spring. Paints miniature of Mrs. Paget.
1905	Paints miniature of Countess Frances Warwick. Gertrude Kasebier photographs Dix several times in her studio.
1906	Exhibits miniature of Lady Minnie Paget in the "Eleventh Exhibition of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters," the Modern Gallery, London. First solo show, "Exhibition of Portrait Miniature by Miss Eulabee Dix," is held at the Fine Art Society, London.
1907	Solo exhibition in New York, at the Bauer Folsom Galleries.
1908	Exhibition, "Miniature by Miss Eulabee Dix," at the A.R. Kohlman Galleries, Indianapolis.

- Solo exhibition, "A Special Collection of Miniature Paintings by Miss Eulabee Dix," at the St. Louis Museum of Fine Arts.
- During the summer, Dix travels to England, France and Scotland. Studies drama with Rosina Philippi in London.
- 1909 Paints Samuel Longhorne Clemens (Mark Twain- in collection of National Portrait Gallery).
- 1910 Exhibition at Thurber Art Galleries, Chicago.
June 22. John Sloan notes in his diary that Dix posed for a pencil sketch by Yeats at Sloan's studio.
Moves to Sherwood Studios.
Dix marries New York lawyer Alfred LeRoy Becker.
Robert Henri paints a portrait of Dix in her wedding gown, now in the permanent collection of the Museum of Nebraska Art.
- 1911 Robert Henri paints a portrait of Dix, Lady in Black Velvet that is exhibited at the MacDowell Club in New York, and is now in the permanent collection of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA.
- 1916 Alfred Becker is appointed Deputy Attorney General of New York. The couple moves to Albany.
Dix exhibits in the Art Association of Indianapolis's 31st Annual Exhibition of Painting at the John Herron Art Institute, Indianapolis.
- 1917 The Beckers travel to Argentina.
- 1919 The Becker family moves to New York.
- 1920 Dix exhibits work at the Second Spring Exhibition by members of the Pennsylvania Society of Miniature Painters, the Art Alliance Gallery, Philadelphia.
- 1923 Dix gives an "Illustrated Talk on Miniature" to the Civic Art Center, New York, in conjunction with her exhibition at the Center.
- 1924 Shows work at the "Loan and Invitational Exhibition of Miniatures, Antique and Modern, from the Collection of Mrs. Daniel J. McCarthy and exhibiting artists," the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, FL.
- 1925 Dix lives in Europe for three years with her two children, Philip Dix and Joan.
- 1927 Dix wins a silver medal at the Salon des Artistes Francais, Paris.
- 1928 Dix returns to New York.
Solo exhibition, "Table Portraits," at Milch Galleries, New York.
- 1929 The Pennsylvania Society of Miniature Painters awards Dix a bronze medal of honor.
Awarded silver medal, the Levantia White Boardman Memorial Prize, for Portrait of Mrs. Henry Strater at the American Society of Miniature Painters 30th Annual Exhibition, Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.
Gives lecture on "The Masters of Miniature Painting" at Contemporary Arts, New York. In conjunction with exhibition of "Table Portraits and Miniatures."
- 1931 Travels to Paris for further study in painting.
- 1932 Returns to New York.
Exhibits drawings of Vassar College Daisy Chain students at Taylor Hall, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 1933 Lecture at Brooklyn Museum, "The Art and History of Miniature Painting.

- 1934 “Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures by Eulabee Dix,” Corcoran Gallery of Art. Exhibits two paintings as part of group flower paintings exhibition at the Grand Central Galleries, New York.
- “Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures and Flower Paintings by Eulabee Dix,” M. Knoedler & Co., London.
- 1935 “Flowers and Miniature Portraits by Eulabee Dix, “ Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.
- Exhibits Mrs. Marshall at the Royal Academy, London.
- 1936 Exhibits flower paintings at Garden Club of London.
- “Roses of England, Roses of France,” solo exhibition of paintings at Marie Sterner Gallery, New York.
- 1938 Exhibits miniatures and flower paintings at Arts Club, Washington; Telfair Gallery, Savannah; and at the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte.
- 1939 “Exhibition of Miniatures and Roses by Eulabee Dix,” Delphic Studios, New York. In conjunction with the exhibition, Dix lectures on miniatures.
- Awarded Howell Tracy Fisher Memorial Prize for My Children (1927), at the 37th annual Waterclub and Print Exhibition and the 38th Annual Exhibition of Miniatures, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.
- 1940 “Miniatures and Fleurs de Toiles,” Loudonville Exchange.
- Dix moves to Los Angeles for approximately four years.
- 1941 Exhibition of miniatures and flowers at the Nicholson Gallery, Pasadena.
- Exhibition at Ebell Club’s Art Salon, Los Angeles.
- 1942 Exhibit “Doorways of Famous Homes,” Allotria Club, Los Angeles.
- 1943 Awarded first prize in miniature division, California Art Club, Los Angeles
- 1945 Moves back to New York.
- Holds exhibition “Doorways of Famous Homes,” at new studio at 1690 3rd Avenue.
- 1946 “Flower Paintings and Custom-designed Gingham Dresses,” 1690 3rd Avenue.
- 1948 Exhibits flower paintings at “Roses Through the Centuries,” Wanamaker’s, Philadelphia.
- “Exhibition and Sale of Miniatures, Fleurs de Toile Pictures and Original and Artistic Bags,” 1690 3rd Ave.
- 1950 “Special Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures,” 1690 3rd Ave.
- Presents studio show celebrating fifty years in New York.
- Included in “Flower and Still Life Paintings by an International Group of Artists Throughout the Centuries,” French & Co., Inc., New York.
- 1952 Dix presents lectures, “The History of the Art of Miniature Painting,” National Arts Club Gallery.
- “Pictures of Roses in Oils, Watercolors,” 1690 3rd Ave.
- 1953 Exhibits work in “Open Exhibition of Oil Paintings by Contemporary Artists.” National Arts Club, New York.
- 1954 Dix spends the majority of the last seven years of her life at York House in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1958 Retrospective of miniatures and paintings, “Pinturas E Miniaturas de Eulabee Dix,” at the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, in Lisbon.
- Solo exhibition, Milch Galleries, New York.

1959 "Eulabee Dix: Desenhos, Retratos, Pinturas," at the Livraria a Bibliofila, Lisbon.
1961 Dix dies in Waterbury, CT.

Scope and Content Note

Included in the Eulabee Dix Papers are a variety of materials from Dix's professional life. Correspondence with artist friends, patrons, and galleries are included. Many photographs, news-clippings, and other types of reproductions of Dix's work were collected by the artist. Two scrapbooks consist of many of these reproductions. Several portraits of Eulabee Dix are also part of the collection.

The collection's writings are mainly manuscripts – both handwritten and typescripts – by Dix of a memoir and a history of miniatures. A version of the memoir was privately published by Dix's family after her death. Other writings included are a few short stories by Dix and one typescript story about Dix's studio by Ruth von Phule.

Several medals won by Dix and her palette and brush, a pencil sketch by John Butler Yeats, and a watercolor floral painting by Dix are also included.

Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

The collection is divided into eight series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1900-1959 (by subject)
- Series 2: Printed Matter, 1906-1987 (by subject)
- Series 3: Writings, undated (by subject)
- Series 4: Clippings, 1907-1936 (chronologically and in original order for bound material)
- Series 5: Photographs 1906-1953 (by subject and in original order for bound material)
- Series 6: Memorabilia 1927-1929 (by subject)
- Series 7: Watercolor painting by Eulabee Dix, undated (single object)
- Series 8: Sketch by John Butler Yeats, 1910 (single object) (In NMWA Art Storage)

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1900-1959

This series consists of correspondence, arranged by subject

Series II: Printed Matter, 1906-1987

This series contains printed matter, such as exhibition pamphlets.

Series III: Writings, undated

This series mainly includes drafts of Eulabee Dix's memoirs.

Series IV: Clippings, 1907-1936

This series contains clippings, which refer to both Dix's exhibit and also to the persons Dix painted. Also including with the clippings are two scrapbooks, assembled by Dix, of clippings and reproductions of her work.

Series V: Photographs, 1906-1953

This series consists of photographs. Most of the photographs are reproductions of Dix's work.

Series VI: Memorabilia, 1927-1929

This series contains memorabilia, including awards and Dix's ivory palette.

Series VII: Watercolor painting by Eulabee Dix, undated

This series consists of a single item – a watercolor painting of 2 pink roses, titled "Pink Down", by Eulabee Dix

Series VIII: Sketch by John Butler Yeats, 1910

This series consists of a single item – a sketch of Eulabee Dix by John Butler Yeats from 1910. *This has been moved to the museum's permanent collection and is in art storage. Please contact library staff up to three weeks in advance to allow registrar staff time to pull the work.*

Names and Subject Terms

Names:

Dix, Eulabee, 1878-1961

Yeats, John Butler, 1839-1922

Subjects:

Women artists – Illinois – 19th century

Women artists – New York (State) – 20th century

Women painters – Illinois – 19th century

Women painters – New York (State) – 20th century

Portrait miniatures – United States – 20th century

Portrait painting – United States – 20th century

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Paintings

Works of art

Correspondence

Clippings

Photographs

Memorabilia

Exhibition announcements

Manuscripts

Printed materials

Container Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1900-1959

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Alexander, Elisabeth C., 1926
1	2	Balsan, Consuelo F., 1955
1	3	Beckington, Alice, 1940
1	4	Bloom, Vera, 1945
1	5	Buffalo Fine Arts Gallery/Albright Art Gallery, 1913, signed Cornelia B Sage
1	6	Carline, Dick, n.d.
1	7	Church, Frederick S., 1903-1923
1	8	Coteliott, Lucuetias Eddy, 1927, American Women's Club of Paris
1	9	Conner, Eli Talyor, 1937
1	10	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, 1954-1955
1	11	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, 1956
1	12	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, Jan-Mar 1957
1	13	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, Apr.-May 1957
1	14	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, Oct-Dec 1957
1	15	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, 1958
1	16	Dix, Eulabee, to Doris Leete, undated
1	17	Dix, H. P., 1954
1	18	Dix, William S., 1954
1	19	Fristott, Marie Sterner, n.d.
1	20	Hasbrouck, Helen, 1930
1	21	Henri, Robert, 1911-1917
1	22	Heywood, Florence, 192[7]
1	23	Hoyt, Esther H., 1910
1	24	Hodges, Liffie M., 1910
1	25	Hopkins, Ellen, n.d.
1	26	Karr, Louise, n.d.
1	27	Kemsley Newspapers Ltd. of London, 1954, signed Kay Murray
1	28	Kibby, John T., 1934
1	29	"La Revue Moderne," 1935, 1936
1	29a	Library of Congress Copyright Office, 1956
1	30	Lubec, Henry, Rector, 1900
1	31	Lyon, Isabel, 1907
1	32	McCarthy, Elizabeth, 1929
1	33	McNeil, Dudley Darr, Bishop, 1954
1	34	Monod, F, 1939
1	35	Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, 1958-1959, Dr. Joao Couto
1	36	Myrick, Katherine S., 1929
1	37	Oxford University Press, 1947

1	38	Paget, Lady Minnie, 1904-1915
1	39	Parsons, Katherine B., 1956
1	40	Podley, 1936
1	41	Princeton University Library, 1950, signed Julian P. Boyd
1	42	Reader's Digest, n.d.
1	43	Rice, H.L.P., 1933
1	44	Ring, Clark L., 1923
1	45	Rogers, Mrs. Francis, 1954
1	46	Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1940
1	47	Skinner, Cornelia Otis, 1952
1	48	Societe de la Miniature de l'Aquarelle et des arts Precieux, n.d., signed Mll. Debillemont Chardon
1	49	Spettal, Gladys S., n.d.
1	50	Twain, Mark, 1908
1	51	Universe Magazine, 1933, signed Alexis Droutzkoy
1	52	Warwick, Countess Frances W., 1934-1936
1	53	Weathers, Edna Cushing, 1931
1	54	Whittemon, William J., 1947
1	55	Unidentified, n.d.
1	56	Unidentified, 1958-1959
1	57	Third Party Correspondent, n.d.

Series II: Printed Matter, 1906-1987

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	58	Printed Matter, 1906-1987
1	59	Undated Material
3	1	Oversized Matter

Series III: Writings, undated

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	1	Drafts of memoirs, n.d.
2	2	Drafts of memoirs, n.d.
2	3	Memoir and History of Miniature Painting., 1946
2	4	"Fire Rittings," n.d.
2	5	Handwritten Material, n.d.
2	6	Handwritten Material, n.d.
2	7	Typescript and Related Material, n.d.
2	8	Collected Loose Material, n.d.
2	9	"Salon Under the El" written by Ruth von Phul, n.d.
3	2	"The Fortune Gown", n.d.
3	3	Contents of Envelope Titled "Philosophy, '31-'41"
OVR 5	1	Journal, 1900
OVR 5	2	Manuscript on the History of Miniatures, 1946

Series IV: Clippings, 1907-1936

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	4	Clippings, 1907-1954
3	5	Photocopies of Loose Clippings from scrapbook, n.d.
3	6	Undated Clippings
OVR 5	3	Tape-Bound Clippings, 1906-1907
OVR 5	4	Oversized Clippings. n.d.
OVR 6	1	Scrapbook with Tassle, n.d.
OVR 6	2	Scrapbook with Cloth Binding

Series V: Photographs, 1906-1953

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	7	Portraits of Dix, 1906-1953
3	8	Portraits of Other People, n.d.
3	9	Dix's Studio in Carnegie Hall, ca. 1904
3	10	Photographs of Portrait Paintings by Dix, n.d.
3	11	Photographs of Portrait Paintings by Dix, n.d.
3	12	Photographs of Other Paintings by Dix, n.d..
3	13	Lisbon Exhibition, n.d.

Series VI: Memorabilia, 1927-1929

Box #	Folder Title
4	Award medals, 1927-1929
4	Original boxes for award medals
4	Original oval portrait card template, n.d.
4	Palette and brush, n.d.
4	Royal Academy Exhibition 1935 Entry Tag for <i>Mrs. Marshall</i>
4	2 envelopes from Arte Foto Color

Series VII: Watercolor Painting by Eulabee Dix, undated

Box #
OVR 63

Series VIII: Sketch by John Butler Yeats, 1910

Transferred to permanent collection and in art storage.