

# **Finding Aid to the Ann Kocsis Papers, 1935-1973 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](mailto:lrc@nmwa.org)  
Phone: 202-783-5000

## Title:

Ann Kocsis Papers

## Provenance:

Margarete D. Connelly of Vienna, Virginia donated the Ann Kocsis Papers to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in March 1998.

## Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1935-1973

## Physical Description:

2 boxes (approx. 1.25 linear feet)

## Summary:

The Ann Kocsis Papers consist mainly of materials related to her professional life; including correspondence, membership cards, and documents from various art institutions and artist's groups. Ann Kocsis was an American still-life painter active in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Finding Aid URL:

<https://nmwa.org/learn/library-research/archives/finding-aids/kocsis-finding-aid>

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access Information:**

Unrestricted

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item, Date, Series, Ann Kocsis 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.

### **Processed by:**

Patrick Brown, August, 2006

### **Processing Note:**

The collection is contained in two boxes, located in the Library and Research Center. The collection was initially processed and a finding aid written in 1998. Reprocessing and finding aid revisions were performed in August 2006 by Patrick Brown, when the collection was separated into six series (see above), re-housed in acid-free folders, and divided into two boxes.

## **Biographical Note**

A painter primarily of still lifes and views of her own studio, Ann Kocsis (d. 1972) was the daughter of Hungarian immigrants John and Katie Svidro of New York City. When she was five years old, sometime between 1910 and 1920, her family moved to Pittsburgh. There, as a teenager, she worked in a beauty parlor and a millinery and did independent instruction for piano and art. While working, she attended the Wickersham School of Music and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Returning to New York, Kocsis began to focus on painting. She took classes at the National Academy of Design. In 1939 and 1941 Kocsis held solo shows at the Montross Gallery,

which was managed by her acquaintance, Philip Reilly. Howard Devree of the *New York Times* wrote on January 22 about Kocsis' 1939 show, saying that the work was "all very earnest... carrying with it a distinct sense of subjects being very carefully studied and color and arrangement being very painstakingly thought out." The same reviewer commented on her second show in the Sunday, January 12, 1941 edition, saying, "[Kocsis' paintings are] high in key, sound in construction and brushed with assurance and determination. It is a gay and bright assemblage of pictures..."

Her first two shows seem to have been Kocsis' only solo exhibitions. Throughout the rest of her career, Kocsis participated in as many as fifty group exhibitions. These group shows were in New York galleries, galleries around the United States, and at least two international galleries. Many shows were organized through the several artists' associations of which Kocsis was a member. These included the Knickerbocker Artists, the International Institute of Arts and Letters, the American Artists Professional League, the National Association of Women Artists, the National Arts Club, and the Royal Society of Arts. Through these organizations and their group shows, Kocsis won several awards. She is listed in several bibliographic resources such as *Who's Who* 1947 and 1973.

During her lifetime, at least two institutions had paintings by Kocsis in their permanent collections. *Paletter and Brushes* became part of the permanent collection of Seton Hall University, New Jersey, after the painting won an honorable mention in the 1958 Fourth Annual Spring Art Exhibition. Another painting is in the permanent collection of Florida Southern College.

#### Chronology:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1939      | Montross Gallery, New York City January 16-28, Solo Show.   |
| 1941      | Montross Gallery, New York City January 6-18, Solo Show.  |
| 1947-1952 | National Association of Women Artists, Group Exhibition.  |
| 1948      | Audubon Artists, Group Exhibition.<br>Association Artists of Pittsburg, Group Exhibition.   |
| 1951      | American Artists Professional League, Group Exhibition.   |
| 1952      | Florida International Art Exhibition, Honorable mention.  |
| 1955-1956 | Grand National Art Exhibition, New York City.   |
| 1957      | European tour exchange exhibition, Athens, Salonika, Brussels.  |
| 1958      | Seton Hall University, Honorable Mention and Gold Key Award.  |
| 1960      | Japan-American Women Artists, Tokyo, Exchange Exhibition.   |
| 1962      | American Artists Professional League, Honorable Mention.  |
| 1964      | Fairleigh-Dickinson University, "Exhibition 1964."  |
| 1969      | Galerie Internationale, New York City, Group Exhibition.  |
| 1973      | Upon Kocsis' death, her sister Marie Kocsis established "the Ann Kocsis Memorial Award for Oil Painting \$ 50.00" for the 23rd Annual Knickerbocker Artists Exhibition. |

## Scope and Content Note

The Papers of Ann Kocsis consist mostly of the artist's correspondence with the artists' associations and galleries from 1935 until 1973. Several of Kocsis' membership cards and records are also included.

Also included is a scrapbook of reviews and programs from exhibitions which included works by Kocsis. The scrapbook has clippings from 1939 until 1969. There is no indication of who compiled the scrapbook or when, but was most likely assembled by the artist. A photocopy facsimile of the scrapbook is included in the collection.

Carbon copies of typewritten biographies of the artist are also in the collection. These biographical sketches appear to be submissions prepared for the biographical resources where Kocsis appeared.

One photograph of the artist is included.

## Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

- Series 1: Photographs
- Series 2: Clippings and Biography Drafts
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Professional Membership Records
- Series 5: Reviews
- Series 6: Scrapbook and Ephemera

The collection is divided into six series. Series 1 contains three photographs: Black and white photograph of the artist, 2 ¾" x 3 ½", There is no date; Color photograph of painting *The Dancers*, 3 ½ x 5", 1930's; Color photograph of painting *Pan and Tea Kettle*, 3 ½ x 5", 1930's

Series 2 consists of several typescript and handwritten drafts of her biography, as well as clippings of her biography from various publications. These undated biographical sketches appear to have been prepared by Kocsis for submission to biographical resources in which she appeared, such as *Who's Who*.

Series 3 consists of professional correspondence to the artists from galleries and artists organizations. These records span the years 1935–1973. Also included in this

series are contact lists, one for “American Art Week Display” and one for “Artists/USA 1970 – 71”.

Series 4 consists of membership cards for artist organizations, letters regarding membership in such organizations, lists of the members, and a calendar card from the Royal Blue Book in London. The dated objects in this series, which include membership cards and membership lists, range from 1962 to 1973.

Series 5 consists of typescript copies of reviews of her exhibitions, dating from 1941 – 1957. The reviews are in chronological order.

Series 6 consists of an acid-free copy of a leather-bound scrapbook with wooden cover most likely assembled by the artist, as well as related ephemera. Included in the scrapbook are reviews of her work, clippings, listings of where her work was shown, gallery announcements and many catalogues/programs for the exhibitions in which she participated. The dates of the materials inside range from 1939–1969. The original scrapbook is kept in a separate box.

## **Names and Subject Terms**

Kocsis, Ann, -1972.

Women artists—United States—20<sup>th</sup> century.

Women painters—United States—20<sup>th</sup> century.

Still-life painting—20<sup>th</sup> century.

Correspondence—20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Container Inventory**

Boxes marked OVR are oversized

### **Series 1: Photographs**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Black and white portrait of Ann Kocsis, n.d.; 2 Reproductions of paintings, 1930s

### **Series 2: Clippings and Biography Drafts**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	2	Biographical information, n.d.

### **Series 3: Correspondence**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	3	Ahda Artzt Gallery, Ltd., n.d
1	4	Artists' Little Gallery, n.d.
1	5	Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, 1935, signed Christian Walter
1	6	Burns, Charles W., n.d.
1	7	Contact lists, n.d.
1	8	Creative Gallery, n.d.
1	9	Galerie Internationale, 1969
1	10	Giant Photos, Inc., 1972, signed Lloyd Kant
1	11	Internationales Kunst-Adressbuch, n.d.
1	12	La Galerie Mouffe, n.d., signed François de Vallombreuse
1	13	Lyn Kottler Galleries, n.d.
1	14	Knickerbocker Artists, 1972, signed Joseph Hintersteiner
1	15	Marquis—Who's Who Inc., 1958, signed L. Lewis
1	16	Montross Gallery, 1938, signed Samuel Campbell
1	17	The Museum of Modern Art, 1968, signed Jennifer Licht
1	18	The National Arts Club, 1967, signed Sherman G. Drake
1	19	Old Bergen Art Guild, n.d.
1	20	Seton Hall University, 1958-59, signed Ruth Dugen
1	21	Spectrum Gallery, 1966, signed Betty Borger
1	22	Tuscan Fine Arts Association, Inc., 1957, signed Winifred Wise
1	23	Two Thousand Women of Achievement, 1971, signed Ernest Kay
1	24	Whitney Museum of American Art, 1967, signed Robert Doty

#### **Series 4: Professional Membership Records**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	25	American Artists Professional League, Inc., 1969
1	26	Galerie International, 1969
1	27	Knickerbocker Artists, 1962-73
1	28	National Arts Club, n.d.
1	29	National Register of Prominent Americans and International Notables, 1973
1	30	Tuscan Art Center, Inc., 1969

#### **Series 5: Reviews**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	31	Typescript reviews of exhibitions, n.d.

#### **Series 6: Scrapbook and Ephemera**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	32	Royal Blue Book calendar, 1968
1	33	Scrapbook, facsimile, n.d.



2 OVR Scrapbook (original), 1939-1969