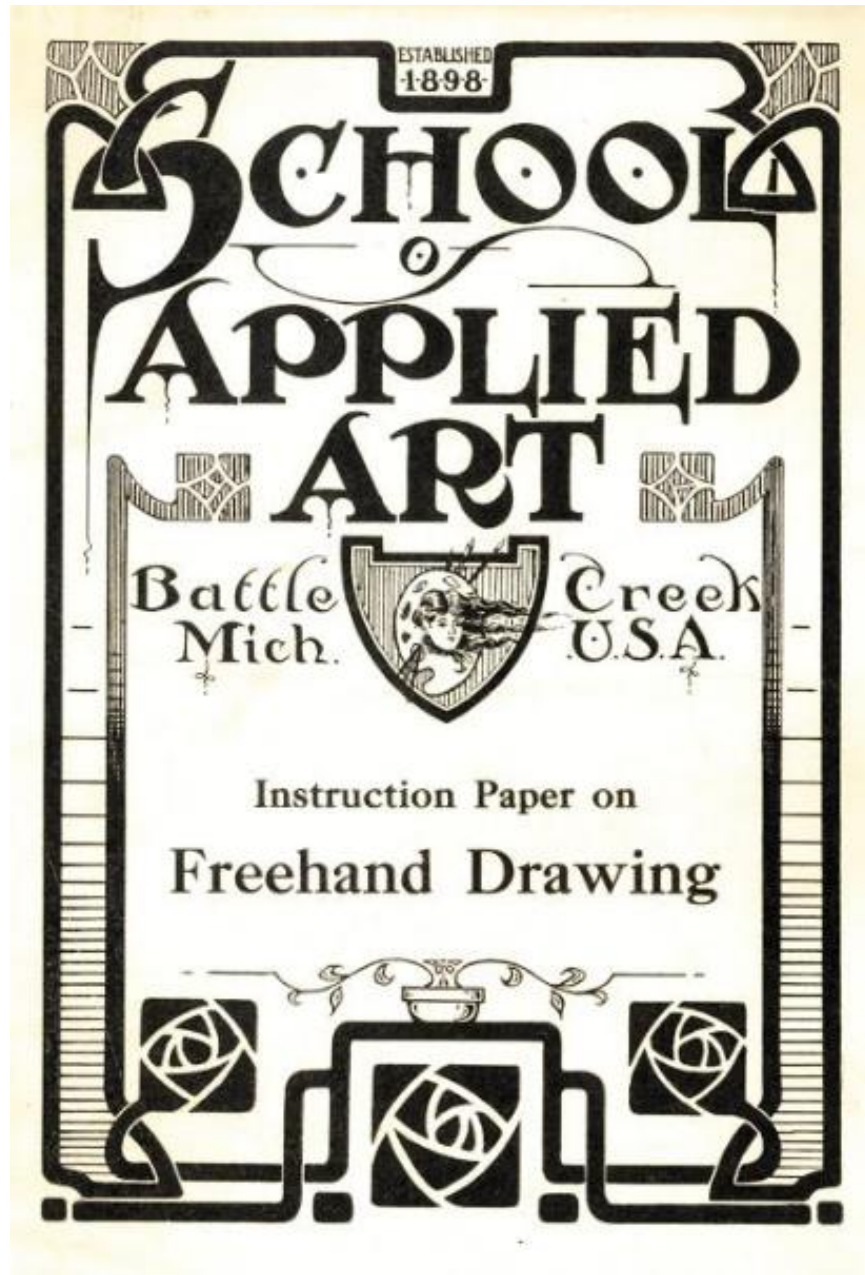




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**THE BAKER/PISANO AMERICAN ART HISTORY RESEARCH COLLECTION  
OF RARE AMERICAN ART CATALOGS, BOOKS, AND  
RELATED ART MATERIALS**

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**Many years ago part of the great adventure of collecting American art of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was hunting for documents, catalogues and assorted ancillary material. They could be found in second-hand stores, flea markets, and garage/lawn sales. There were even a few booksellers who offered such material. Today, however, such items are difficult to come by and likely of no interest to contemporary collectors. But these sundry bits and pieces of earlier American art history help flesh-out, define and add historical weight to the greater history of Art in America.**

**The Society of American Fakir Catalogues:** This mad-cap, screw-ball organization was started by students of The Art Students' League of New York in 1891. As they shared their West 57<sup>th</sup> St. Studio Building with the august Society of American Artists, the urge to parody works in the annual SAA exhibition in the exhibition gallery of the building was too tempting. And the fun began! Prominent members who had their work parodied, included William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, John Singer Sargent, John La Farge and John White Alexander. When the SAA merged with the National Academy of Design, the fun continued until the last exhibition in 1914. The major benefactor was Samuel T. Shaw, who also assembled a large personal collection of American Art of the period. Catalogues of the Fakir exhibitions are among the rarest artifacts in American art history, held by only a few libraries.

1. *Firelog of the Eleventh Annual Exhibition*, New York, 1902
2. *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Soaker: [Being the Official and Only Authentic Review of the Daubdiety]*, New York, 1904.
3. *16<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition: Grumpwillie Fakirs Annual Lemon Fest*, New York, 1907
4. *The Fakir's Twenty-First Revolt!*, New York, 1912

**The Society of American Artists:** The Society of American Artists was founded in 1877 in protest to the hegemony of The National Academy of Design – primarily due to the restrictive policies regarding the NAD's annual exhibitions. Works by younger, non-member artists were either rejected or their submissions “skied” – hung high on the exhibition gallery walls. And election to the NAD was also a difficult feat. But in 1906, the decision was made to merge the two organizations.

5. *Menu of the Farewell Dinner of the Society of American Artists*, New York, April 11, 1906.

**Art Manuals/Instructions; School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI:** American instructional booklets on principles of creating art date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, notably *Elements of the Graphic Arts* (1802) by Archibald Robertson who, along with his brother Alexander, opened an art school, “The Columbian Academy of Art,” in New York around the same time. Such instructional books continued to be published throughout the centuries, reflecting, in some cases, basic principles that appear never to have changed, as well as evolved ideas related to “making art.” Nearly one hundred years later, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, was founded, as a correspondence school. Its letter head stated, “We do NOT claim the LARGEST NUMBER of students of an Art School. Teaching by wholesale does not appeal to us. The BEST

POSSIBLE instruction and attention to a limited number is our aim, and such service cannot be given at cheap-school rates.” The letter head also stated it had “The only building in the world devoted to Correspondence Art Instruction and Owned by the School.” Now going on over 200 years later, this mission is carried on by on-line internet programs.

6. *Instruction Paper on Direct Perspective*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1900

7. Tuttle, Edwin V., *Description and Use of Drawing Instruments*, the School, of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1907

8. Tuttle, Edwin V., *Geometrical Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI 1907

9. *Instruction Paper on the Elements of Pen and Ink Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1908

10. Pillsworth, Edward S. *Instruction Paper on Light and Shade*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1909

11. *Instruction Paper on Elements of Wash Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1910

12. *Instruction Paper on Textures*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1911

13. *Instruction Paper on Angular Perspective*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI 1914

14. Tuttle, Edwin V., *Instruction Paper on Gouache Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1915

15. Pillsworth, Edward S., *Instruction Paper on Freehand Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1916

16. *Commercial Line Drawing*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1916

17. *Instruction Paper on Figure Proportions and Figure Sketching*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1920

18. *Instruction Paper on Landscape and Animal Sketching*, the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, MI, 1920

**International Exhibition Catalogues:** During the mid-nineteenth century, countries began to hold international exhibitions, featuring agricultural products, industrial machines, and, art. Among the earliest: The London Crystal Palace Exposition of 1851, recreated in New York two years later; the Paris Exposition Universelle starting in 1855, and most notably, the International United States Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, in 1876.

19. *The United States Centennial International Exhibition Official Catalogue : "Art Gallery, Annexes, and Outdoor Works of Art,"* 14<sup>th</sup> and Revised Ed., J.R. Nagle & Co., Philadelphia, 1876

20. Handy, Moses, *World's Columbian Exposition 1893, [Chicago] Official Catalogue*, W. B. Conkey Company, 1893

21. *Official Catalogue Exhibitors: Universal Exposition, St. Louis, Missouri*, by the Committee on Press and Publicity, Official Catalogue Co., 1904

22. *The International Exhibition of Modern Art* (aka the Armory Show of 1913), Supplement to the Catalogue: Containing Additions, Errata and Exhibits Catalogued by Not Received. The Association, New York, 1913

23. *Official Illustrated Catalogue of the Department of Fine Art, Panama-Pacific International Exposition*, (with Awards), San Francisco, California, Wahlgreen Company, 1915

24. *A Selected Collection of Objects from the International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Art of Paris, 1925 (Exposicion Artes Decorativas)*, catalogue of the reconfigured Paris exhibition in New York, organized by the American Association of Museums, 1925 – Note: this is the exhibition from which the term Art Deco was coined

**Auction Catalogues of Noted American Collectors:** The growing mercantile and industrial production company fortunes during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century gave rise to conspicuous consumption, which included art collections. Alas, many of the newly minted millionaires purchased the work of European masters (many of dubious attribution). But a few believed in, and also purchased works by, American artists of the period, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, if these collections weren't destined for museums, they reentered the art market via auctions. Together they represent a very good survey of art collecting during the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

25. *Catalogue of the Collection of the American Art Association: To Be Absolutely Sold by Auction to Settle the Estate of the Late R. Austin Robertson*, New York, American Art Association Gallery, April, 1892.

26. *The Samuel T. Shaw Collection of American Paintings: Canvases by Representative American Artists*, New York, American Art Association Gallery, 1926

27. *The Art Collection of the late Samuel Coleman, N. A.: American and European Paintings by Samuel Coleman, George Inness, Winslow Homer, J. Francis Murphy & Others*, New York, American Art Association, Anderson Galleries, 1927

28. [The Estate of George A. Hearn] *Paintings by Distinguished Artists of the British, American, French, Dutch and Early Flemish and Italian Schools*, New York, American Art Association, Anderson Galleries, 1932

29. *Paintings by American Artists from the Collection of Samuel T. Shaw*, New York, Parke-Bernet Galleries, 1945

**Early American artist and One-Person Gallery Exhibitions:** For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was little interest on the part of art galleries or dealers to handle the work of American artists. But slowly this began to change, and American artists became the subject of group as well as one person exhibitions in galleries,

30. *An Exhibition of Paintings by Edward J. Steichen*, Eugene Glaenzer & Co. Gallery, 303 Fifth Avenue, New York, Feb-Mar 1905

31. *An Exhibition of Paintings by Edward J. Steichen*, Eugene Glaenzer & Co. Gallery, 303 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1906

32. *Ten American Artists*, Montross Gallery, New York, March, 1906

33. Keppel, Frederick, *Joseph Pennell: Etcher, Illustrator, Author*, New York, Frederick Keppel & Co., 1907

34. Leonard Williams, *Catalogue of Paintings by Joaquin Sorolla Y. Bastida* Hispanic Society of America, New York, Feb.-Mar. 1909

35. *Paintings in Oil and Pastel by James A. Whistler*, Florence Levy Gallery, New York, March-May, 1910

36. *Loan Exhibition of Paintings by Winslow Homer*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1911 – this was a memorial exhibition of 51 oils and watercolors, Homer died the previous year, thus the first posthumous exhibition of his work.

37. *First Annual Exhibition Given at and for the Benefit of the Lighthouse for the Blind*, New York, 1913

38. *Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings*, Montross Gallery, New York, Feb. 1914

39. *A Retrospective Collection of Paintings by Alexander Harrison and Birge Harrison*, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester MA, October 4-26, 1914

40. *Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture: Held under the Auspices of the National Sculpture Society*, Buffalo, 1916

41. *Loan Exhibition of Paintings by Emil Carlsen, N. A., from the Collection of Robert Handley, Esq. of New York*, MacBeth Gallery, New York, 1919

42. *Important Works in Painting and Sculpture by Leading American Artists*, Milch Galleries, New York, 1920

43.. *Important Works in Painting and Sculpture by Leading American Artists*, Milch Galleries, New York, 1921

44. Paris, William F., *Personalities in American Art*, The Architectural Forum, 1930

45. Breeskin, Adelyn D., *The Graphic Work of Mary Cassatt: A Catalogue Raisonné*, New York, H. Bittner, 1948. The definitive catalogue of Mary Cassatt prints, not including the counterproofs.

46. Berman, Ann E., *The Saltwater World of Reynolds Beal*, Jan. 23-Maarch 21, 1998, exhibition catalogue, Beacon Hill Gallery, New York.

### **Early Exhibition Catalogues from the Guggenheim Museum**

The New York Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum grew out of Mr. Guggenheim's collection which originally hung in his apartment in the Plaza Hotel, New York. Eventually, the collection became the nucleus of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, founded in 1939 and exhibited as the Museum of Non-Objective Painting located in a former automobile showroom on East 54<sup>th</sup> St. in Manhattan.. In 1943, Mr. Guggenheim and the director of the museum Hilla von Rebay wrote a letter to the 76 year old architect Frank Lloyd Wright asking him to design the now famous Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum at 1071 Fifth Avenue in New York City. Mr. Guggenheim, however, saw only the plans for the building as he died, aged 88, in 1949.

47. *Loan Exhibition: Museum of Non-Objective Art*, Opening Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, 24 East 54<sup>th</sup> St. New York

48. *Selections from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Collection II*, 1953.

49. *Selections from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Collection III*, 1954

50. *Selections from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Collection VI*, 1956

51. *Some Recent Gifts*, April 1-26, 1959 (This is the last exhibition before the museum move to the Wright building).

52. *The Solomon R. Guggenheim Inaugural Selection*, opening Oct. 21, 1959 in the newly built Frank Lloyd Wright building. Mr. Wright, alas, died seven months before the opening of his controversial building which has grown into on of the iconic buildings of New York City.

**Assorted Early Exhibition Catalogues:** Including general surveys of American art and artists.

53. *Oil and Sculpture*, Boston Art Club, Boston, MA, 1870. This organization was organized in 1854, and held exhibitions in a rented building, though they suspended exhibitions during the

Civil War years, after which they held exhibitions in various artist member's studios. In 1871 the organization was formally organized and again rented space until they built their own building.

54. *Catalogue of the Pedestal Fund Art Loan Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York, 1883. This exhibition was held to raise money to fund the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. While the French government provided the, now iconic, statue, it was up to the United States to provide a pedestal, which was designed by Richard Morris Hunt.

55. *The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts*, Philadelphia, PA, 1893. Founded in 1805, the academy became the first and oldest art museum and art school in the United States.

56. *Catalogue of the Exhibition of the National Sculpture Society Under the Auspices of the Municipal Art Society of Baltimore*, Fifth Regiment Armory, Baltimore, MD, April, 1908.

57. *Catalogue of the Thirteenth Annual Exhibition of the Carnegie Institute*, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, April-June, 1909.

58. *Catalogue of the Annual Exhibition of the Society of Independent Artists*, 1917, The Society, Grand Central Palace, New York. This is the inaugural exhibition of this organization whose aim was to accept art work independent of a jury selection process. However, a urinal signed "R. Mutt" by Marcel Duchamp was rejected – causing some what of an uproar, publicity likely benefiting both the society and Duchamp. The last exhibition of the society was in 1944.

59. *The Illustrated Catalogue of the [92<sup>nd</sup>] Annual Exhibition of the National Academy of Design*, 1917, National Academy of Design, New York, NY.

60. *The Illustrated Catalogue of the [100<sup>th</sup>] Annual Exhibition of the National Academy of Design*, 1925, National Academy of Design, New York, NY.

61. *Catalogue of the International Exhibition of Modern Art: Assembled by the Société Anonyme*, November, 1926- January, 1927, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York

62. *American Painting and Drawing: The Basic Years 1925-1945*, Larcada Gallery, 1976, New York, NY. Larcada Gallery founded by Richard Larcada was one of several small New York art galleries on or just off Madison Avenue, specializing in American art of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The gallery represented the estates of both Rockwell Kent and J. Alden Weir.

**Signed Art Catalogues:** Publishing art books and exhibition catalogues, though somewhat cost prohibitive, remains an important means by which galleries showcase art work to their clients and, hopefully, prospective clients. Museums, too, continue to produce a prodigious number of art books, mainly related to exhibitions. But while this is still an important source of revenue to some museums, some museums now "publish" exhibition catalogues on-line.

63. Pisano, Ronald G., *A Leading Spirit in American Art: William Merritt Chase 1849-1916*, Henry Art Gallery, 1983, signed on front fly leaf "Gerald R. Ford" (38<sup>th</sup> President of the United States). Published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name held at the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, the exhibition also traveled to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Several years later, Ron Pisano was attending a reception held at Central Art Galleries, West 57<sup>th</sup> St. New York, when it was announced that former President Ford was about to enter the gallery. More of a whim than anything else, Ron grabbed a copy of his book on display in the gallery, and asked President Ford to sign it - a serendipitous moment of no consequential meaning, other than a fun thing to do. Of greater importance, this was the first exhibition since the Chase memorial exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1917 that included only authentic paintings by the artist – the museum exhibitions between 1917 and 1983 all included fakes and forgeries.

64. Howard, Richard and Kraft, Polly, *Try These on for Size: Watercolors by Polly Kraft, Text by Howard Richard*, signed by both author and artist. East Hampton, NY, Glenn Horowitz, Bookseller, 1997