

Photograph Collection

BMA.3

Finding aid prepared by Emily Rafferty

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art
2008-2014
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Summary Information

Repository	Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art
Creator	Baltimore Museum of Art
Creator - Photographer	Remy, Gaston
Creator - Photographer	Sanchez, José
Creator - Photographer	Suter, Duane
Title	Photograph Collection
Date [inclusive]	1923 - 2009
Extent	59.2 Linear feet (130 boxes, 2 oversize boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	The Photograph Collection contains the photographic records of the Baltimore Museum of Art. They document exhibits, facilities, collections, events and people associated with the Museum from the Inaugural Exhibition in 1923 through 2009.

Preferred Citation

Photograph Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Scope and Content Note

The Photograph Collection contains the photographic records of the Baltimore Museum of Art. The materials document exhibits, facilities, collections, events and people associated with the Museum beginning with the Inaugural Exhibition in 1923. The Collection was formed from various groups of photographs that were donated to the Archives . Photographs that came to the Archives as part of manuscript collections or archival record groups are filed with those materials and have not been separated out.

Arrangement

The Photograph Collection is arranged in five series: 1. Annual Record, 2. Building and Grounds, 3. Events, 4. Exhibitions, 5. People.

Because of the haphazard way the Collection was accrued, often either in large groups as staff cleaned out offices or in small increments as they went through files and came across an original photo or two, it has been divided into subgroups by medium, by subject, or by source. Within each subgroup, the series are arranged either by subject or by date.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art 2008-2014

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. To obtain copies of images, please contact the Library staff.

Ownership and Copyright

The materials are the physical property of the Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art. Copyright, except in cases where material has passed into the public domain, belongs to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. The Photograph Collection is closed to outside researchers for

25 years from the date of creation unless otherwise indicated in the Archives Access Policy. For further information, consult a Library staff member.

Provenance

The majority of the material in the Photograph Collection was transferred to the Archives from the Rights & Reproductions Department, and the Decorative Arts Department. A further group was found in the Archives in 2007.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Rafferty from 2004 to 2013.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Black-and-white negatives
- Color negatives
- Color slides
- Color transparencies
- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Art museum architecture
- Art museum directors
- Art museum visitors
- Art museums -- Administration
- Art museums -- Employees
- Art museums -- Exhibitions
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- Children's museums
- Education -- Museums
- Exhibition openings
- Museum architecture
- Museum storage facilities
- Museum trustees

- Volunteer workers in museums

Other Finding Aids note

Swepson Earle Lantern Slides of Chesapeake Bay Architecture Series, Photograph Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Lantern Slides Series, Photograph Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Collection Inventory

Annual Record. 1923 - 1929 1.0 Linear feet (3 boxes)

Arrangement

Photographs were originally housed in binders marked "Annual Record" and mounted on acidic sheets with typed descriptions. The mounts have been retained, but are kept separately due to preservation concerns. The photographs have been retained in their original order with notation on their enclosure about the original description. Numerous photographs are missing, but their descriptions have been copied onto sheets of paper that are interfiled with the photographs.

Scope and Contents

Series 1. Annual Record contains photographs of the Baltimore Museum of Art's buildings, galleries, works of art, events and related individuals from the Inaugural Exhibition in 1923 through 1929. It includes photographs of the Museum both at its first location in the Mary Garrett mansion on Monument Street and its current location in Wyman Park. Also included are photographs of works of art either exhibited at the museum or that are part of the museum's collections. Object photographs are notable for the inclusion of frames, in some cases. Photographs were taken mainly by Hughes Co. of Baltimore, but other photographers such as Peter A. Juley and Sons are also represented. Many photographs are marked with notations about cropping or captions for use in publications such as The Sun or News-Record of the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Building and Grounds. 1923 - 2009 7.5 Linear feet (18 boxes, 8 oversize items)

Scope and Contents

Series 2. Building and Grounds includes photographs of The Baltimore Museum of Art building and surrounding grounds from 1923 to 2009.

Events.

Exterior photographs show both the Museum's temporary home at 101 W. Monument St. and the Wyman Park location and include views of the entire museum as well as details of the lion sculptures, the roof, various additions and the Spring House. Views of the Downtown Gallery are also included.

Interior views include individual galleries and spaces such as the Cone Wing, the Shop, the Library, the Cafe and later restaurants, and staff areas such as offices and vaults.

Models and Renovations includes photographs of plans and models for new wings and renovations as well as views of the construction process.

Gardens includes photographs of the West Garden, the Alan Wurtzburger Memorial Garden, the Wurtzburger Sculpture Garden, the Levi Sculpture Garden, and various plantings.

Events. 1931 - 2005 9.6 Linear feet (23 boxes, 5 oversize items)**Scope and Contents**

Series 3. Events contains views of events either coordinated by or held at the BMA. The series includes photographs of speeches and talks, galas and balls, parties, openings of new wings, dedications of galleries, groundbreaking ceremonies, theatre and musical performances, parades, events for specific groups such as children, teachers and senior citizens, and installation of major works of art. The focus of these images is on the particular event and people, not the artwork or the building.

This series does not include exhibition openings. These photographs are filed in the Exhibitions series.

Exhibitions. 1923 - 2009 34.6 Linear feet (75 boxes)**Scope and Contents**

Series 4. Exhibitions includes images related to exhibitions at The Baltimore Museum of Art from 1923 through 2007. Photographs include installation views, individual objects, and openings. Formats include black and white and color photographic prints, black and white and color negatives (acetate and polyester), color slides, and color transparencies. The range of material for each exhibition varies greatly: some span multiple folders with meticulous documentation of each area of the installation and objects,

People.

others contain only a single slide of one object in the exhibition. Many exhibitions at the BMA either were never photographed or the photographs have not yet been located.

People. 1923 - 2007 (Bulk, 1950-1999) 3.4 Linear feet (7 boxes, 11 oversize items)

Scope and Contents

Series 5. People contains images of people associated with The Baltimore Museum of Art or visiting The Baltimore Museum of Art. It is divided into five subseries:

Visitors and Speakers includes photographs of scholars, artists, performers, and collectors who visited the museum to see the collection, to speak, or to perform. These images are headshots or formal photographs for publicity only, photographs of specific events are filed in the Events series.

Trustees includes photographs of the BMA's Board of Trustees: individual photographs, group photographs, Trustee-only events and parties, and meetings. Of note are formal group photographs of the first Board in 1923 and the 1954 Board with identifications of members on the reverse.

Government Officials includes photographs of mayors, governors, Baltimore City Council members and other elected officials at the BMA, signing bills related to the BMA, and at lunches and other events for officials at the BMA.

Staff includes photographs of BMA directors, curators, guards, other staff, and volunteers at internal events such as farewell, retirement, and holiday parties. It also includes photographs of members of the Women's Committee and their meetings and activities. Photographs of Women's Committee-organized events such as Balls, lectures and teas are filed in the Events series. Photographs of the Sales and Rental Gallery are filed in the Building and Grounds series.

General public includes photographs of visitors in the galleries. It does not include photographs from specific exhibitions, tours, or events, or of specific people.

Education Department Activities. 1940s - 1990s 1.3 Linear feet (3 boxes)

Location of Associated Material

Miscellaneous.

Some photographs of Education Department activities are also filed with the Annual Record series and Lantern Slides series.

Scope and Contents

Series 6. Education Department Activities contains photographs of docent tours, classes, lectures, visiting school groups, and other events arranged by the BMA's Education Department. It also includes photographs of some of the art created by children in classes held at the BMA, generally before the 1980s. The majority of the photographs date from the 1940s through 1980s.

Photographs of exhibitions organized by the Education Department, such as those in the Junior Museum and Saidie A. May Young People's Art Center, are filed with the Exhibitions series.

Miscellaneous. Undated. 1.8 Linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize box)**Scope and Contents**

Miscellaneous includes photographs that do not fit in the other series of the Photograph Collection, but do support research of the BMA's collection. The series comprises photographs of Samoa and other locations in the Pacific Islands, missionary Mabel I. Silver in Sierra Leone, Maryland architecture, Baltimore ornamental iron work, and glass plate negatives of three works in the BMA's collection.