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Annual Report 1939

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT REPORT

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I. The number of exhibition spaces has been increased from 12 as in the Community Art Project report of June 15, 1938, to 16 functioning, plus one tentative. The locations are as follows.

1. East Greenwich - Tel. Bldg.
2. Kingston - R. I. State College
3. Westerly - Library
4. Bristol - Library
5. Newport - Art Association
6. Providence - Tel. Co., Gaspee Office
7. Providence - Tel. Co., Toll Office
8. Pawtucket - Tel. Co., Pawtucket Office
9. Cranston - Cranston Print Works, Gate House
10. Chepachet - Library
11. Harrisville - Library
12. Woonsocket - Library
13. Woonsocket - Branch Library
14. Woonsocket - Junior High School
15. Manville - Post Office
16. Providence - Girls City Club
- (tentative) 17. East Providence- Watchemoket Library

The new spaces have been established through requests deriving alone from interest in the Project, and no steps were directly taken for the enlargement.

II. Large Exhibitions

1. "Exhibition of Paintings and Crafts",
Kingston - R.I. State College, June 21 - 28
2. "Exhibition of Etchings", by George Gale (36)
Westerly Museum - July 14 - August 28
3. "Exhibition of Etchings", by George Gale (36)
Kingston - R.I. State College, November 1 - 18
4. "Six Oil Paintings",
Woonsocket Jr. High School, November 4 - 18
5. "Exhibition of Etchings", by George Gale (20)
Providence - Telephone Company, October 12 - 25
6. Through contacts with the Community Art Project
the Federal Art Project was able to exhibit a
large painting show at Westerly and the Newport
Art Association.
7. "Exhibition of Hurricane Paintings", (30 paintings - 2
drawings)
 - a. Westerly Museum, November 19 - December 5
It is notable here that no other show
with the exception of a Tercentenary
"Early Rhode Island Artists" exhibition
has been in this main gallery, other
than the permanent one until this group.
 - b. Newport Art Association, December 7 - 28
 - c. Norwich Free Academy, Conn., January 4 - 21
 - d. Moses Brown School, January 25 - February 25
8. One man Lica exhibition by Ann Lammers obtainable
February, 1939. Schedule incomplete.
9. Commercial show by William Blount and Andrew Young
obtainable February 1939. This show requested by
Woonsocket.

10. One man painting show by Florence Leif, obtainable March, 1939. Schedule incomplete.

III. Lectures

a. Prepared lectures with slides have been used as follows:

1. "The Life and Work of Gilbert Stuart"
Quota Club, Woonsocket, R.I., November 12, 1938
2. "Christmas Legends in Art"
First Baptist Church, Providence, R.I.,
December 5, 1938
3. "Christmas Legends in Art"
Quota Club, Woonsocket, R.I., December 20, 1938
4. Slides for "Architectural Development of Providence"
Mr. Creer, Rhode Island School of Design,
January 23, 1939

b. Lecture delivered to the New England Library Association by Wesley Noble, Thursday, June 23, 1938, at Manchester, Vermont. Accompanied by panel and paintings and followed by discussion.

Results: Extensive suggestions on Community Art work sent to New York State group by request. One new show opened in Rhode Island.

c. Lecture delivered to the Rhode Island Library Association at Woonsocket, Rhode Island, by Wesley Noble, October 21, 1938.

Result: three new shows in Rhode Island

d. Lecture on the "Technique of Tempera Painting" to be given to student group in Woonsocket in February, 1939.

e. Request for speaker on "Old Glass", by the Womens Club of Chapachet, Rhode Island now under negotiation.

f. Lecture on the Community Art Project of Rhode Island by Wesley Noble for February or March, 1939 to Womens group in Chepachet, Rhode Island.

IV. Displays of handmade Christmas Cards were arranged and circulated from November 1 to December 20. Each group carried the following copy:

'Handmade Xmas Cards created by Rhode Islanders.'

'Do your own cards this year. Complete information on the simple and inexpensive method of block printing will be sent upon request to the Community Art Project, 14 College Street, Providence, Rhode Island.'

Five requests were received and the following information forwarded.

'Instructions for Block Printing'

Cover block with white water color to make the block opaque. Trace finished sketch on block with carbon paper. Fill in with pencil all areas that you desire white, or unprinted in the finished card. Leave white all areas you desire colored in the finished block. Cut the penciled areas out with the tools. Study each tool carefully before using, as each serves a different purpose. After gouging the block, wipe off the water color paint with a damp cloth. You are now ready to print.

Squeeze $\frac{1}{2}$ " of printers' ink on a piece of glass, or a porcelain slab, and moisten with turpentine. Mix turpentine and ink together with a spatula, or knife. Run the roller over the ink fast, and with pressure, until the ink becomes "tacky" or clings to the roller. Then run the inky roller over the block. Place your card or paper evenly on the block and use the back of a spoon to smooth paper on evenly. Be sure to reach all parts of the inked block and use even pressure. Remove paper carefully, and you have your finished card.

Clean roller with turpentine when finished with printing.'

One demonstration was given to a group of service station attendants upon request. Three of the men consequently completed cards.

V. Funds

A campaign to raise a sum of \$25.00 annually from the various towns is being continued with favorable indications from most localities. The Telephone Company in Providence agreed to pay the sum only if the matter is not publicized, and have made part payment for 1939.

The sum of \$12.00 is to be paid by the Norwich Academy for the use of the Hurricane Exhibition.

VI. Sales for Exhibitors

Through the Community Art Project exhibitions, five hand carved birds by Mr. Harold Gibbs have been sold, and ten spun pewter beakers by Mr. Frederick Wallace.

VII. Calendar of Art Events

The number of paid subscriptions for 1938-1939 is 324 as against 407 for the previous year, and constitutes the only non-expanding phase of the project. This, however, has been given attention and can be remedied for the coming year.

VIII. Secretary

A change of secretaries was made in September, 1938, by replacing Miss Morton with Mrs. Noble. The replacement of the first secretary was absolutely necessary for the benefit of the Project, and the present arrangement has been very satisfactory.

IX. Publicity

The following mimeographed information was prepared and distributed throughout the state.

X. Summary

The schedule of the Project has been carried on without interruption other than part of the week following the hurricane of September, 1938, at which time the roads rendered impossible the necessary speed to complete deliveries.

Details such as insurance, upkeep of the station wagon, collection of new exhibition material, and written matter for same, have been carefully attended.

The Community Art Project has at no time failed to supply demands, whether for large shows to be obtained, or to be placed, or for small matters of simple information.

The Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design has agreed to an arrangement whereby the Community Art Project may use pieces from the Museum, the pieces to be selected by Dr. Dorner. This should create a marked increase of interest in the work of the Project.

At this time the Project shows the greatest possibilities to date. The small permanent shows could be increased in a few months to twice the number of exhibition spaces with small direct effort. Upon the assumption that material from out of state may be used, as well as that of Rhode Island artists, it may be safely said that the Community Art Project could place more shows of greater variety in museums and galleries of the cities and towns in the State, and if desired, in all New England states, than any similar organization has anticipated.

This would necessitate a man for full time, but at the same time appears reasonable that the large shows can be used to defray general expenses if handled at comparatively small charge, which would, nevertheless, more than cover delivery costs. The loan to the Norwich Academy, consisting of the Hurricane Paintings is an example.

It may be suggested that full time attention seems necessary in any event, rather than half time as now is arranged for the Executive Secretary. Due to the growing number of shows deliveries require time to the extent of rendering impossible making contacts as they should be made, and properly assembling new material.