



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Reginald Marsh Negatives from *Art Discovers America*

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Extent

.2 linear feet

Processed

Sarena Fletcher, 2005

Contents

Negatives of Marsh from the 1943 documentary, *Art Discovers America*

Access Restrictions

Unrestricted

Contact Information

Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
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Preferred Citation

Reginald Marsh Negatives, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Scope and Contents Notes

Reginald Marsh appeared in a 1943 documentary film called *Art Discovers America*, created by Alfredo Valente. In the film, Marsh is painting with the Brooklyn Bridge in the background. The Reginald Marsh negatives are of Marsh in this setting.

Art Discovers America is a patriotic World War II-era educational film about American artists made by the artist and collector Alfredo Valente, an Italian immigrant. In the 1930s, with profits from his photography business, Valente began to collect paintings by artists he considered to be American masters. The filmmaker's personal relationships with the artists portrayed in the film—including Raphael Soyer, John Sloan, Thomas Hart Benton, Reginald Marsh, and Abraham Walkowitz—are reflected in the staged footage he shot of them working in their studios or en plein air.

The film was made independently and distributed by MGM, and within a year had it been bought by the Loews studio and made into a longer educational film called *Grandpa Called It Art* (1944). Although the Archives of American Art does not have a copy of the later film, the title suggests it may not have retained the same passionate admiration of the artists that characterizes Valente's film.

The film is available to watch at <http://blog.aaa.si.edu/2010/07/some-notes-on-the-short-film-art-discovers-america-circa-1943.html>

Description of the Collection

Folder

- 1 Letter from Fred S. Frater, Exton, Pennsylvania, to Ms. Harriet Memeger, Librarian, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware, dated May 13, 1994.
- 2 Letter from Fred S. Frater, Exton, Pennsylvania, to Curator, the Marsh exhibition, Museum of the City of New York, New York, dated December 5, 1994.
- 3 22 prints on contact sheets of Reginald Marsh, c. 1943
- 4 22 negatives of Reginald Marsh, c. 1943
- 5 Newspaper article: Cotter, Holland, "Art in Review. The Making of a Mural, Reginald Marsh at the United States Custom House." *The New York Times*, Friday, December 2, 1994, p. C19. Article referring to exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York.