



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: American Federation of Arts, 1948-1953

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"...to give leadership and unite all who are interested in the development of art in America..."

A Cultural, educational association founded to maintain services and programs which bring the visual arts to the people in every state in the Union. Its aim is to give the public important information about the arts in America. Through its various activities it promotes community participation in the arts, offers encouragement to artists and records art history in the making.

Financing of the regular program is almost wholly carried by members' dues, publication sales and subscriptions, and fees for service. Therefore, individual and corporate gifts can be used to establish new programs and to provide capital funds for the improvement of all activities.

A Primary function of the AFA is to work constantly to make art a part of the daily lives of the people. The AFA is a democratic organization, governed by a Board of Trustees, elected annually by the membership. Its director and paid professional staff carry out the program in collaboration with the committees of leading art authorities and representatives of its member museums and all art institutions and groups.

AFA IS A NON PROFIT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDED IN 1909 AND INCORPORATED IN 1916. UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AS A MEMBER CORPORATION

The Federation Serves Individuals, Art Organizations, Educational Institutions, Libraries and Industry by

circulating annually 60 exhibitions of original works of art in America. It has assembled and sent on national and foreign tour nearly 2,000 special exhibitions having 10,000 individual showings in museums, colleges, schools, libraries and art clubs.

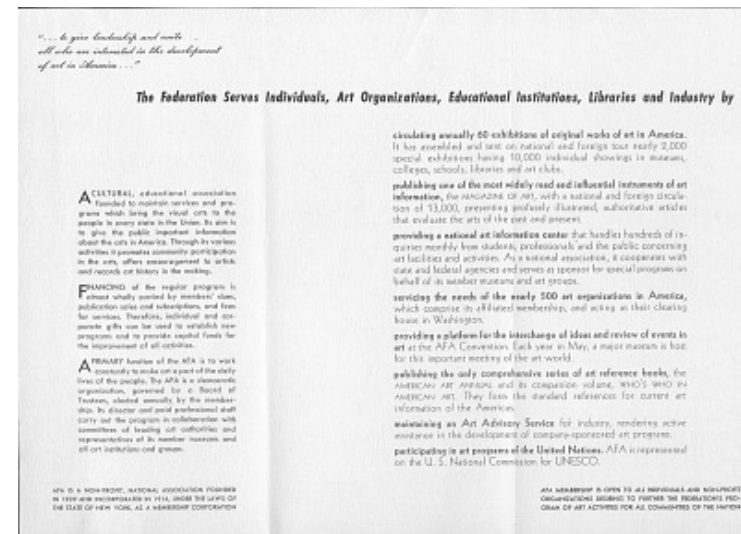
publishing one of the most widely read and influential instruments of art information, the MAGAZINE OF ART, with a national and foreign circulation of 13,000, presenting profusely illustrated, authoritative, articles that evaluate the arts of the past and present.

providing a national art information center that handles hundreds of inquiries monthly from students, professionals and the public concerning art facilities and activities. As a national association, it cooperates with state and federal agencies and serves as a sponsor for special programs on behalf of its member museums and art groups.

servicing the needs of the nearly 500 art organizations in America, which comprise its affiliated membership, and acting as their clearing house in Washington.

providing a platform for the interchange of ideas and review of events in art at the AFA Convention. Each year in May, a major museum is host for this important meeting of the art world.

publishing the only comprehensive series of art reference books, the



AMERICAN ART ANNUAL and its companion volume, WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN ART. They form the standard references for current art information of the Americas.

maintaining an Art Advisory Service for industry, rendering active assistance in the development of company-sponsored art programs.

participating in art programs of the United Nations. AFA is represented on the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO.

AFA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS DESIRING TO FURTHER THE FEDERATION'S PROGRAM OF ART ACTIVITIES FOR ALL COMMUNITIES OF THE NATION

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The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

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