



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Archives of American Art*

## **Yasuo Kuniyoshi Papers, Artists' Equity Association - Meeting Minutes, Reports, Speeches, 1947-1952**

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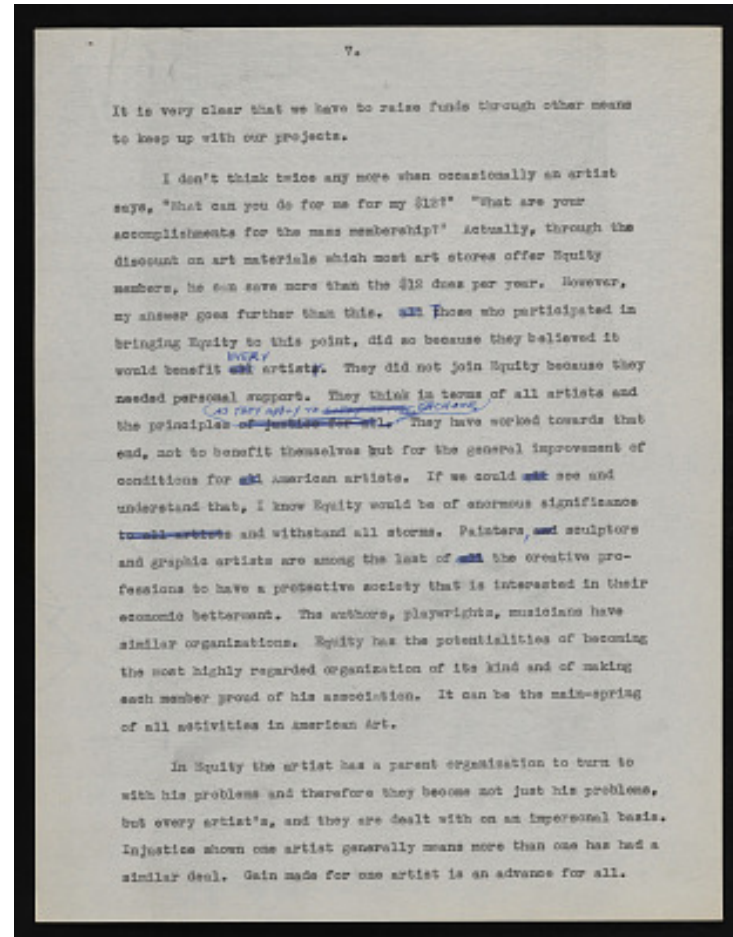
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7.

It is very clear that we have to raise funds through other means to keep up with our projects.

I don't think twice any more when occasionally an artist said, "What can you do for me for my \$12?" "What are your accomplishments for the mass membership?" Actually, through the discount on art materials which most art stores offer Equity members, he can save more than the \$12 dues per year. However, my answer goes further than this. ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ Those who participated in bringing Equity to this point, did so because they believed it would benefit ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ all ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ every artist. They did not join Equity because they needed personal support. They think in terms of all artists and the principles ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ of justice for all ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ as they apply to ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ every artist ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ each one. They have worked towards that end, not to benefit themselves but for the general improvement of conditions for ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ all ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ American artists. If we could ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ all ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ see and understand that, I know Equity would be of enormous significance ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ to all artists ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ and withstand all storms. Painters, ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ and ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ sculptors and graphic artists are among the last of ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ all ~~[[/strickethrough]]~~ the creative professions to have a protective society that is interested in their economic betterment. The authors, playwrights, musicians have similar organizations. Equity had the potentialities of becoming the most highly regarded organization of its kind and of making each member proud of his association. It can be the main-spring of all activities in American Art.

In Equity the artist has a parent organization to turn to with his problems and therefore they become not just his problems, but every other artist's, and they are dealt with on an impersonal basis. Injustice shown one artists generally means more than one has had a similar deal. Gain made for one artist is an advance for all.



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