INDIANA ARTISTS CLUB, INC.
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1944-2017

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Processed by
Jessica Fischer
October 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes, 2 folders color photographs, 2 CD Roms

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1944-2017

PROVENANCE: Indiana Artists, Inc.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0148

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Indiana Artists Club Inc. (originally known as Indiana Artists Club) was organized on January 23, 1917 in the studio of Carl Graf. The group consisted of 46 prominent artists including: Otto Stark (President), Frederick Polley (Vice President), Clifton Wheeler (Treasurer), Anna Lou Matthews (Secretary), T.C. Steele, William Forsyth, and Marie Goth.

The purpose of the club was to bring artists together to promote their interests as well as to promote arts in the community. Membership was limited to professional artists, but non-artists who were interested in the promotion of art were invited to join as associate members.

The primary mode for achieving the club's goal was its annual member exhibition. During World War I, the group held their first exhibition in a building on Monument Circle and made a total of $2222, which they donated to Red Cross. By the end of 1918, their membership almost doubled, reaching a total of 86 artists.

In 1925, they held a month-long exhibit at the Spink-Arms Hotel, which brought the Brown County Artists into the club and lead to the Club becoming the group that spoke for the Brown County school. The organization was also instrumental in founding the Hoosier Salon Patrons Association (1925) and the Indiana Federation of Art Clubs (1926).

On November 18, 1936, the first grand scale exhibition of paintings was held at L.S. Ayres & Company department store auditorium. This location became their main site for exhibitions for many years after that.

In 1947, the group decided to write a new set of by-laws. These new bylaws stressed that every member would be allowed one piece in the annual exhibition to ensure each member would have recognition. Also, prospective members would have to submit works to a jury of club members, after proving their work had been included in a certain number of major art shows. On September 24, 1947 the group was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization.

Indiana Artists Club, Inc. now boasts over 150 artists of various disciplines from Indiana and sponsors two exhibitions as well as other activities including lectures, demonstrations, and workshops.

Sources:
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www.indianaartists.org
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

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