

National Association of Women Artists, Inc.

Empowering Women Artists Since 1889

135 Years of Women's Art 1889 - 2024

TheNAWA.org

Historic Timeline

- January 31, 1889 -Founded by 5 women as the Women's Art Club
- 1914 After 25 years, renamed National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors
- 1930s over 1000 members opened Argent Galleries on 57th Street
- 1941 changed name to National Association of Women Artists
- **1989** 100th anniversary published 100 Years: A Centennial Celebration of the National Association of Women Artists
- **1991** NAWA Permanent Collection founded at Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University
- 1995 January- Florida Chapter established
- 2013 December- Massachusetts Chapter established
- 2018 November- South Carolina Chapter established
- 2024 135 year Anniversary!

Founded in New York City in 1889 as the Woman's Art Club, The National Association of Women Artists, Inc. (NAWA) Celebrates its 135th Anniversary this year (2024).

The founders of the Woman's Art Club

- Anita C. Ashley
- Adele Frances Bedell
- Elizabeth S. Cheever
- Edith Mitchill Prellwitz
- Grace Fitz-Randolph

The founding statement of the Woman's Art Club insisted that art by women was equal in creative achievement to the work of men and that this would be understood only when women proved themselves in the public sphere.

In 1892, the Woman's Art Club numbered forty-eight members. Their third exhibition in 1892, was held in a vacant house at 9 West 10th Street, and marked a successful beginning in the group's struggle to be taken seriously.

NAWA Legacy of Achievement

NOT JUST 135 YEARS

- Over a million and a half dollars in prizes awarded
- Thousands of women artists supported & encouraged
- Hundreds of curated shows at venues across the nation
- A permanent museum collection featuring some of the finest artists of the past century

Exemplary Women

Exemplary Women

- Edith Prellwitz
- Rhoda Holmes Nichols
- Cecelia Beaux
- Abastenia St. Leger Eberle
- Elizabeth Nourse
- Alice Shille, Anne Goldthwaite, Melvina Hoffman
- Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot
- Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney
- Augusta Savage

- •Theresa Bernstein
- •Anna Walinska
- ·Louise Nevelson
- •Alice Neel
- •Dorothy Dehner
- •Faith Ringgold
- •Judy Chicago
- •Liana Moonie
- •Audrey Flack
- •Idelle Weber

Exemplary Women Rhoda Homes Nichols (1854-1930)



Rhoda Holmes Nicholls, *A Visitor*, 1895, watercolor on paper, 15 1/2" x 22 1/2"

Exemplary Women Edith Prellwitz (1864-1944) one of 5 NAWA founders

Edith Prellwitz

1864–1944 *Triptych*, circa 1898 Oil on panel 29 ½ x 54 in. Courtesy of Spanierman Gallery, LLC, New York





Cecilia Beaux

1855–1942 Portrait of Alice Davidson, 1909 Oil on canvas 66 ½ x 34 in. Courtesy of John H. Surovek Gallery, Palm Beach, Florida Exemplary Women Cecelia Beaux (1855-1942)

First exhibited in 1914. She taught portrait classes on alternating Sundays in the 1920's to the club's members.

Exemplary Women Elizabeth Nourse (1859 – 1938)



Elizabeth Nourse, Cincinnatti's most famous woman painter. gained a reputation for figure painting, and was a member of the National Association of Women Artists.

Exemplary Women Abastenia St. Leger Eberle (1878-1942)

An American Sculptor, who is best known for figurative works that combine realism, with emphasis on the flow of drapery and movement.



Abastenia St. Leger Eberle

1878–1942 Roller Skating, circa 1906 Bronze 12 ¹³/₁₆ x 11 ¹/₄ x 6 ¹/₂ in. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York Gift of Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney 31.15 © 2001 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Photography by Eva Hevd

- 1930 –1961 NAWA leased space at 42 West 57th Street, NYC
- With over 1000 members and during the Great Depression, many NAWA members were a part of the New Deal Programs, Public Works of Art Project WPA, The Treasury Section of Paint and Sculpture and also the Federal Art Project.

Exemplary Women



Anne Goldthwaite (1869 –1944) *The House on the Hill*, oil on canvas, 18" x 22"

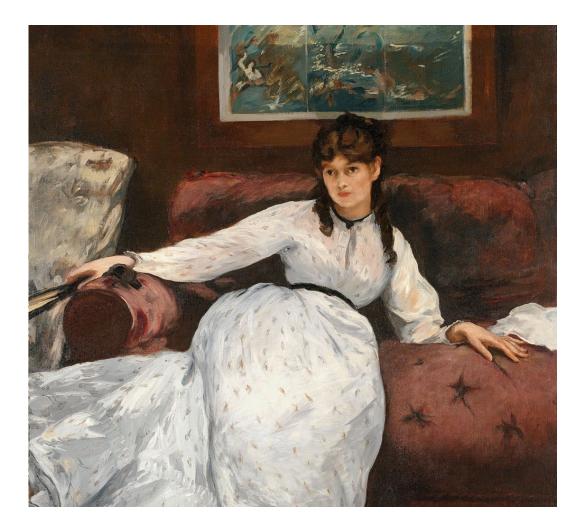


Alice Schille (1869-1955) *California Eucalyptus Trees,* watercolor, 17 1/2" x 10 1/2"

> Malvina Hoffman (1887 – 1966) *Bacchanale Frieze*, 1924, plaster – three panels



Exemplary Women Berthe Morisot (1841- 1895)



Berthe Morisot (French) was never a member of NAWA but she participated in the 1894 exhibition.

Exemplary Women Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)



courtesy of www.marycassatt.org



courtesy of www.marycassatt.org

Mary Cassatt was also never a member of NAWA but she participated in exhibitions in 1892, 1894 & 1896, and lent her name to the organization.

- By the end of the Nineteenth Century, the Woman's Art Club held a successful exhibition at the National Arts Club.
- In 1913, the Women's Art Club changed its name to the Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, to reflect the importance of sculpture as part of their annual exhibitions.

Exemplary Women Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875-1942)

NAWA member, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, founded the Whitney Studio Club, and supported American artists by providing exhibition and studio space for them, and purchasing their work. This work became the founding core of the Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930.







Between 1928 and 1930 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake, granddaughter of the famous suffragette, a portrait painter and arts administrator, served as NAWA President. At this time, pressing financial difficulties led to the sale of the headquarters building, however, it produced the opportunity to lease a space in the midst of New York's Gallery District. A commemorative gavel with Blake's name on it is still housed in the NAWA headquarters office.

Augusta Savage

1892–1962 Gamin, modeled 1929, cast 1940 Bronze 16 ½ x 8 ¼ x 6 inches Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Art and Artifacts Division, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations



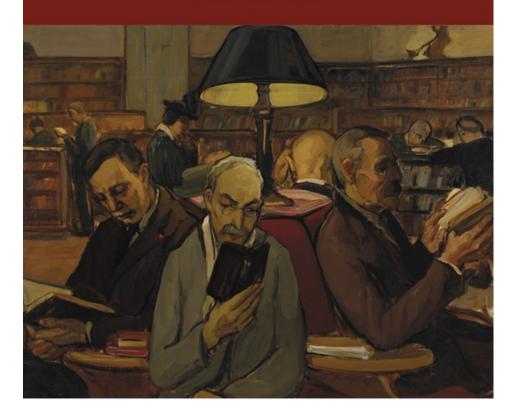
Exemplary Women Augusta Savage (1892-1962)

Augusta Savage, was the first African-American Sculptor, to be elected to the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, in 1934.

In 1941, the association changed its name to the National Association of Women Artists (NAWA.) During the war years (1942-45), the members helped raise money for the troops, purchase war bonds and volunteer to train disabled servicemen for new careers. They sent sketchograms to relate news from home, and continued with war-interrupted exhibitions.

Exemplary Women Theresa Bernstein (1890- 2002)

THERESA BERNSTEIN: A CENTURY IN ART Edited by Gail Levin





Prof. Gail Levin, visiting Theresa Bernstein c. 1983. Levin remains a current Honorary Vice President of NAWA

Theresa Bernstein

- Joined in 1916 and remained committed to NAWA for almost 80 years until her death at 112, in 2002
- Widely exhibited and awarded every decade
- Celebrated in major traveling show, and book "Theresa Bernstein a Century in Art" by NAWA Honorary Vice President, Gail Levin.
- Teacher and mentor to NAWA member Louise
 Nevelson

Theresa Bernstein NAWA Award 1924 Best Painting: Sunset Hour



NAWA's exhibitions have been seen in Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, England, Scotland, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece and India.

Exemplary Women

Louise Nevelson (1899-1988)

- Star pupil of Theresa Bernstein in the 1920s
- Joined NAWA April 10, 1952
- 1962 represented US in Venice Biennale
- 2022 *returned* to Venice Biennale with additional "collaborating exhibition" in St. Mark's Square with over 60 pieces
- Whitney Museum retrospective 1967
- Numerous museum collections

About NAWA

- Works featured in NAWA centennial and the NAWA 120th anniversary exhibitions
- Represented currently by more than 200 art museums & public collections internationally
- <u>http://louisenevelsonfoundation.org/</u>

Louise Nevelson studied with Theresa Bernstein in the 1920s



Louise Nevelson 1962

Louise Nevelson

Louise's granddaughter, Maria Nevelson served as a NAWA juror for the 2023-24 Hammerschlag Award



Louise Nevelson, *Moon Garden VI,* black painted wood, 1975



Exemplary Women

Anna Walinska

(1906-1997)

Joined NAWA April 10, 1952



Anna Walinska

2024 is the 20th Anniversary of the Anna Walinska Memorial Medal of Honor Award, given to a mixed media artwork at the NAWA Annual Members Exhibition

Anna Walinska: Self-Portrait, Paris, 1927, oil on canvas



Anna Walinska: Portrait of Louise Nevelson, 1975, oil on board

Anna Walinska

- During the WPA era: Founded Guild Art Gallery on West 57th Street in 1935, where she gave Arshile Gorky his first solo exhibition in NYC. Served as Assistant Creative Director for the Contemporary Art Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair.
- Exhibited frequently in group exhibitions, including first American Artists Congress, Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, Baltimore Museum of Art, Bodley Gallery (with Nevelson), Riverside Museum, and numerous annual NAWA exhibitions.
- Solo retrospective at New York's Jewish Museum, 1957; solo exhibition, 1979, Cathedral of St. John the Divine (93 works in response to the HOLOCAUST). Also included a watercolor, *Cain & Abel* that won a NAWA Medal of Honor Award in 1957.

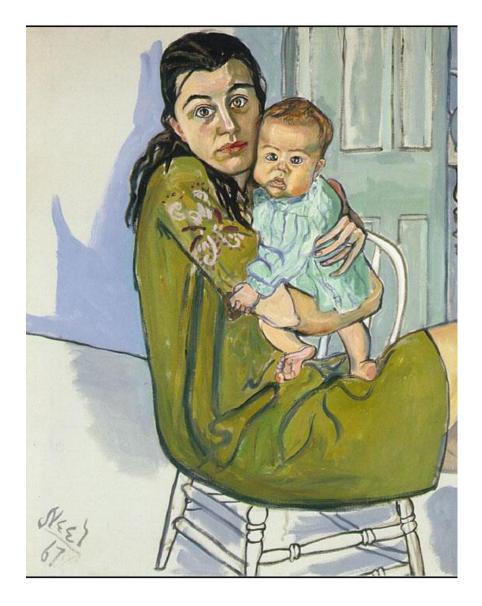


Anna Walinska: *Odalisque & Friend,* c.1950, oil on canvas collection, Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C

Exemplary Women

Alice Neel (1900-1984)

- Renowned as a painter and portraitist
- Whitney Museum Retrospective 1974
- 1979 honored by Women's Caucus Annual Arts award
- Became involved with NAWA late in her distinguished career
- Served as a NAWA show juror and her family later established awards for painting in her name
- Elected Honorary VP of NAWA
- 2 works exhibited in the NAWA centennial show

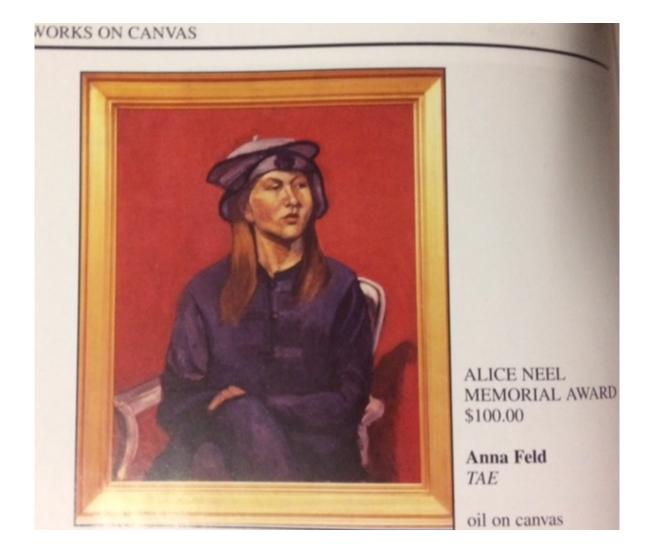


Nancy and Olivia, 1967, oil on canvas



Alice Neel, Marisol, Oil on Canvas

Alice Neel awards at NAWA Annual



Exemplary Women Dorothy Dehner (1901 – 1994)

- Joined NAWA in 1960 and remained committed to NAWA
- Showed new directions in 1970 NAWA exhibition
- A frequent visitor with her studio space in the same building as NAWA
- Became Honorary Vice President in 1984
- Print and Sculpture featured in NAWA 1989 Centennial and 120th anniversary At UBS gallery and Zimmerli Museum
- Widely Exhibited and numerous museum collections
- Posthumous retrospective
- Reference:

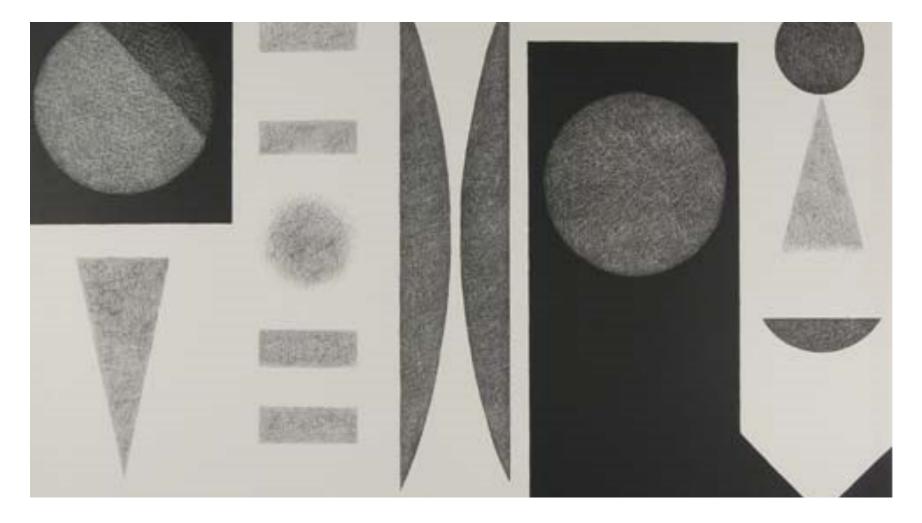
http://www.dorothydehnerfoundation.org/chronology.html

Dorothy Dehner "Northern Wall #2"



Working out of her Manhattan studio at 41 Union Square in 1966, Dorothy Dehner was in her mid-sixties and little more than ten short years into her career as a sculptor. Created in that same year, Northern Wall #2 is an abstracted representation of the view from the north wall of her studio. (courtesy Doyle.com)

Dorothy Dehner, Litho – Lunar Series, 1971





A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ARTISTS

About NAWA *One Hundred Years!*

copyright 1988

Publication marking the exhibition at the Nassau County Museum of Fine Art entitled "One Hundred Years: A Centennial Celebration of the National Association of Women Artists"

Liana Moonie, President 1987-89

Exemplary Women Faith Ringgold (1930 –)

- Joined NAWA 1968
- Artist, author, activist: Champion of civil liberties and women's rights
- Pioneer quilt storyteller and children's author
- Uses her art to support Anyone Can fly Foundation <u>http://www.faithringgold.com</u>
- Major installation 2016 at MOMA <u>https://www.moma.org/calendar/events/2436</u>
- College Art Association Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017
- Long time supporter of NAWA Elected Honorary VP 2004
- Honoree at NAWA 125th Annual Exhibition (2014)
- Subject of BBC documentary, "Tell it Like it Is" (2019)
- Exhibitions nationwide and worldwide

Faith Ringgold and Ursula von Rydingsvard Honored at NAWA's 125th Annual Exhibition



Faith Ringgold The American People Series #20: Die, 1967



Exemplary Women Judy Chicago (1939 –)

• NAWA Honorary Vice President



At NAWA Annual Members Luncheon in May, 1997. Judy Chicago, center. To her right, NAWA member Virginia Stukey.

Photo courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Archives

Judy Chicago



Earth Birth, 1983, collection of Longlati Foundation, China.

Exemplary Women Liana M. Moonie (1922 – 2016)

- Artist and leader
- Joined NAWA 1978
- Deeply dedicated to NAWA, she served as 2 terms as president arranged for the permanent collection at The Zimmerle Museum,
- Led the creation of Florida and Massachusetts Chapters
- Spearheaded the Centennial Show and Catalog
- Remained active and attended NAWA events and a board member until the year before she died.
- And continued to make beautiful art to the end.

Liana Moonie





Above: Liana's artworks "spring from a love and appreciation of nature." Also: donor of the The Liana Moonie Award for an innovative Abstract Landscape Painting

Liana M. Moonie Memorial Silvermine Art Center 2017

A Celebration of the Life of

Liana M. Moonie

1922 - 2016





Exemplary Women Audrey Flack (1931 –)



- NAWA Honorary Vice President
- Pioneer of photorealism painting, and more
- NAWA keynote speaker 2012
- Concurrent exhibitor with selected NAWA artists at Hollis Taggart Gallery, March 2024

Exemplary Women Idelle Weber (1932 - 2020)



Idelle Weber's work was showcased at the 120th Anniversary Celebration Exhibitions in 2009; at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Museum, NJ, and the UBS Gallery, NYC.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ARTISTS

About NAWA

135 Annual exhibitions (and counting!)

135th Catalog still in production...



About NAWA NAWA's legacy and enduring record

NAWA catalogs of exhibitions, awards and events are archived in the following U.S. Museums and Libraries:

- Rutgers University Libraries
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Whitney Museum of American Art
- Jane Voorhees Zimmerli art Museum
- Museum of Modern Art
- National Museum of Women in the Arts
- Smithsonian Institution Archives
- Ryerson & Burnham Libraries, the Art Institute of Chicago
- Frick Art Reference Library
- New York Public Library
- Film and Fine Art Library Harvard University
- Library of Congress

About NAWA Today

- Hundreds of artist members in 42 states, DC and Virgin Islands
- Permanent staff, active board, and countless volunteers
- Offices at the National Arts Club, Gramercy Park, NYC
- Active Chapters in Florida, South Carolina and Massachusetts
- Art exhibitions
 - Juried group exhibitions in select galleries and public venues, & online
 - Chapter exhibitions, Massachusetts, Florida & South Carolina
 - Annual Members Exhibition and catalog open to all Signature Members:
 3 outside judges awarding merit prizes
- Income and prizes from endowment, memberships, donations, and grants
- New Member Benefits: NAWA Now online magazine; Professional Business Practices for Artists programming, Educator Community Programs, History research team
- Special events and programs, Honors and awards to luminaries and supporters

Welcoming new members for the future!



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Empowering Women Artists Since 1889

Women Artists: Join us!

Membership drives end March 15 and September 15, annually

TheNAWA.org



National Association of Women Artists, Inc.

Empowering Women Artists Since 1889

NAWA is the SOURCE for FINE ART GENERATED BY PROFESSIONAL AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS

TheNAWA.org

Collectors:



National Association of Women Artists, Inc. Empowering Women Artists Since 1889