

Diego Rivera Mural Collection (SFAI.008)
San Francisco Art Institute Legacy Foundation + Archive

Container List

Box 1

Box 1, Folder 1: 1926-1928 Correspondence

Includes:

- Correspondence between CSFA Director Lee Randolph and Frances Toor regarding purchase of photographs taken by Toor of Diego Rivera frescos in Mexico for CSFA library.
- 1927 notice of receipt for 10 Diego Rivera drawings loaned by the CSFA to the East West Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 2: 1929-1930 Correspondence

Topics include:

- Arrival of Diego Rivera at the CSFA, including discussion of the potential location of his fresco within the school, and logistics of entry into the country.
- Loan of Rivera artwork (studies of hands) in the possession of Spencer Macky but owned by the SFAA, to be loaned back to the SFAA.
- Gift to the CSFA by Herbert Clayburgh of Diego Rivera drawing.
- Loan of Alfred Honigbaum's collection of 16 Rivera works to SFAA, for use in exhibition at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

Box 1, Folder 3: January-June 1931 Correspondence

Topics include:

- Loan of Rivera's head and hand studies to the Detroit Museum for exhibition.
- Reception for CSFA faculty and students at the Stock Exchange to view the completed Rivera mural there, March 1931.
- Purchase by William Gerstle for the CSFA of preliminary drawings and a watercolor created by Rivera in preparation for his Stock Exchange mural.
- Letter from William Spencer to president of Mexico requesting delay of Rivera's return to Mexico.
- Rivera's service on the jury for the 1931 SFAA Annual Exhibition.
- Talk by Rivera at farewell dinner for CSFA professor Arnold Blanch.
- Payment to Rivera for the painting of the mural.
- Dispute over lunch expenses paid at the school cafeteria for those working with Rivera on the mural, sent by Albert Barrows to the CSFA.

Box 1, Folder 4: July-September 1931 Correspondence and Notes

Includes:

- Letters from E. Spencer Macky to various publications, publicizing the newly completed mural. Includes responses from some outlets.

- Correspondence and notes regarding SFAA reception for William Gerstle, honoring his financing of the mural. Invitations and declined invitations to the reception.
- Press release announcing the unveiling of the mural, the reception for William Gerstle, and the concurrent exhibition of Rivera's work.

Box 1, Folder 5: [1931] Press release and Pflueger mural notes

Contents include:

- Timothy Pflueger's notes on the mural, including the attachment of the "furred" wall that Rivera painted on to the building's structural wall and the design of the scaffolding Rivera worked on.
- Mural press release.

Box 1 Folder 6: 1931 Scaffolding Blueprint

Includes:

- Blueprint of the scaffolding Rivera used while painting the CSFA mural.
- Letter from Timothy Pflueger to Spencer Macky concerning the scaffolding and scaffolding blueprint.

Box 1, Folder 7: Photographs

Includes:

- Photographs documenting Rivera's CSFA Mural and his preparatory drawings for the mural.
- 1931 Photograph of Rivera in front of the mural with Arthur Brown and William Gerstle, posing beside their likenesses.
- 1930 Photograph of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo with Arnold and Lucile Blanch in Ralph Stackpole's Montgomery Street studio.
- Photographs documenting Rivera's Pacific Stock Exchange Mural.

Box 1, Folder 8: October 1931-January 1932 Correspondence

Topics include:

- The loan of Rivera's preparatory drawings for the CSFA mural to the Museum of Modern Art in New York to be included in the upcoming MOMA Rivera exhibition, including valuation of works, insurance and shipping logistics.
- Preparatory drawings for CSFA Rivera mural owned by William Gerstle, and Stock Exchange Rivera mural purchased by Gerstle for the CSFA.
- San Francisco *Examiner* article by Gouverneur Morris on fresco art in California and Rivera at the CSFA, and letter written in response to Morris by Lee Randolph, complaining about his characterization of CSFA students as uninterested in learning from Rivera during his time at the school.

Box1, Folder 9: Feb.-Dec. 1932 Correspondence

Includes:

- Correspondence between Hideo Noda and Spencer Macky about Noda's request for support for a Guggenheim fellowship application, and Macky's subsequent letter of recommendation. (Note that originals of this material have been moved

to Hideo Noda's archival artist file—Noda was a CSFA student from 1929-1931. Presumably this material was originally included here because of Noda's relationship to Rivera. In his recommendation letter, Macky notes that Noda acted as assistant to Rivera in his work on the mural at the school. A few years later, Noda would go on to assist Rivera on his 1933 Rockefeller Center mural, *Man at the Crossroads* as well.)

- Correspondence regarding photographing by Ansel Adams of the Rivera mural completed at the home of the Stern family. (Note that some of these photographs are part of SFAI's archival collections, located in flat file storage.)

Box 1, Folder 10: 1933-1949 Correspondence

Includes:

- Request by Timothy Pflueger to Diego Rivera for assistance in working with the Mexican government to bring an exhibition of "treasures discovered at Monte Alban in Mexico" from the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition to San Francisco for the opening of the new San Francisco Museum of Art. Response from Rivera via telegram.
- Correspondence and Board statement on threat of censorship of Rivera mural in Detroit.
- Planning for a proposed CSFA class to be taught by Diego Rivera in the Spring of 1941 (unrealized).
- Request for loan of Rivera drawings for an upcoming retrospective exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Mexico City from Fernano Gamboa to Douglas MacAgy.

Box 1, Folder 11: 1928-1956 Press Clippings, etc.

Includes press clippings and other ephemera almost exclusively related to Rivera and the creation of his mural at the CSFA. Includes photocopied and original articles and references from newspapers, art periodicals, art exhibition catalogs, oral histories, and assorted publications such as:

- Clippings from local news outlets such as *The Argus: A Monthly Journal of the Arts, Creative Art, Art and Artists*; *The San Francisco Examiner*; *San Francisco Chronicle*; *San Francisco Society of Women Artists Bulletin*; *San Francisco Call Bulletin*; *The San Francisco News*; *Oakland Tribune*; *San Francisco Chronicle Rotogravure Pictorial Section*; *California Arts and Architecture*
- Clippings from national and international news outlets such as *Art Digest*; *Creative Art*; *London Studio*; *London Observer*; *Architectural Forum*
- The California Palace of the Legion of Honor's *Diego Rivera: November 15 – December 25, 1930* exhibition catalog
- Transcript of the University of California Bancroft Library's "Oral History Interview with Robert Boardman Howard" which includes reminiscences of Rivera's 1931 visit to SF
- The 1931 catalog for the *Fifty-Third Exhibition of the San Francisco Art Association*
- An excerpt from Rivera's 1934 *Portrait of America* pertaining to his 1931 San Francisco frescos

- The “Maynard Dixon” entry from *California Art Research*
- Excerpts from Bertram Wolfe’s 1939 *Diego Rivera: His Life and Times* about Rivera’s SF frescos
- Pertinent excerpts from the 1940 San Francisco Museum of Art *Diego Rivera* catalog with writings by Grace McCann Morley (who first mentions here a title for the CSFA mural as *The Making of a Fresco*) and Heinz Berggruen who writes of “Rivera and California,” the California Palace of the Legion of Honor’s *Diego Rivera: November 15 –December 25, 1930* exhibition catalog, and *The San Francisco Art Association Bulletin*.

Box 1, Folder 12: 1957: Diego Rivera Obituaries

- Obituaries from various newspapers printed after Rivera’s November 24, 1957 death. While most of the obituaries are taken from the same wire service article, the newspapers from San Francisco include supplemental information about Rivera’s 1930/31 and 1940 connections to the Bay Area.

Box 1, Folder 13: c.1950-c.1977 Covering and Uncovering of the Mural

- Documentation of the covering and uncovering of the mural, first with a false wall and drop ceiling at some point around 1950 (dismantled in 1957), and later with a set of floor-to-ceiling curtains that could be opened and closed, installed at some point around 1966, and perhaps removed sometime around 1980.
- Photographs of the gallery showing the mural covered, partially covered, or uncovered throughout this time frame.

Box 1, Folder 14: 1957-1980, Correspondence, Unique Primary Source Material, SFAI P.R. Material pertaining to Rivera’s “Making of a Fresco.”

Includes an assortment of original and photocopied primary source material pertaining to the SFAI Rivera mural culled from Board Minutes, newsletters, correspondence, and writings. Examples include:

- SFAA Operations Committee Minutes photocopied excerpt, 6/18/1957 mentioning CSFA Director, Gurdon Woods request to “refurbish the Art Gallery” and replace “the present solution of blocking off the mural permanently and lowering the ceiling” with “removable drapery...which could be put up during exhibits and taken down at other times, enabling the mural to be seen.”
- SFAA Board Minutes, photocopied excerpt, 6/27/1957 approving the changes in the Gallery and proposed curtain for the Rivera mural.
- SFAA Board Minutes, photocopied excerpt, 9/26/1957 concerning new lighting for the Gallery.
- SFAA *Newsletter* photocopy, October 1957, highlighting changes in the programming in the Gallery and renovations.
- An assortment of correspondence, 1964-1966, requesting information about and reproduction of the Diego Rivera mural.
- SFAI Board Minutes, photocopied excerpt, 10/20/1966 mentions a request from Gallery Director, James Monte, to expense “\$500 to purchase a curtain to cover the Diego Rivera fresco...”
- SFAI Archivist, Harry Mulford’s c. 1975 essay, “Diego Rivera”

- November 1977 issue of student newspaper, *SFA Eye* with article, “Frida Kahlo: A Perspective.”
- Set of correspondence with researchers pertaining to the SFAI Rivera fresco, 1978-1980

Box 1, Folder 15: December 1957-1995 Press Clippings, etc.

Newspaper clippings and other fugitive material almost exclusively related to Rivera’s mural at the California School of Fine Arts. Includes photocopied and original articles from newspapers, periodicals, excerpts from publications, brochures, and ephemera such as:

- an assortment of newspaper articles pertaining to the 1957 uncovering/unveiling of Rivera’s 1931 CSFA mural, which had been obscured from public view at some point c.1949/1950. These articles are from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*.
- Scribbled notes [c. December 1957] pertaining to the [Mexican?] Counsel General Edgardo Gonzales and others.
- *Sunset Magazine* (Jan. 1966) article about “Diego Rivera in San Francisco.”
- Photocopied letter about the at-the-time forthcoming “An Appraisal of *Diego Rivera: The San Francisco Frescos*” by Emmy Lou Packard (never published).
- Brochure for SFMOMA’s 1982 *Diego Rivera: Mural Studies* exhibition. 1984 review from the *SF Chronicle/Examiner* of SF’s Mexican Museum exhibition “Diego Rivera: Selected Works, 1918-1949.”
- 1986 photocopied clipping “Their Mentor’s Saviors: Preserving Diego Rivera’s Legacy,” about Lucien Bloch and Stephen Dimitroff celebrating Rivera’s 100th birthday and their completion of restoration work on Rivera’s CSFA fresco.
- Excerpt from the Detroit Institute of Arts 1986 *Diego Rivera: A Retrospective* that pertains to Rivera’s SFAI fresco.
- 1988 clipping about 1960s era SFAI alumnus, Rick Tejada-Flores’ “American Masters” series documentary about Rivera.
- 1990 flier and business card pertaining to the documentary “Diego Rivera: I Paint What I See.”

Box 1, Folder 16: Misc. Rivera Press Clipping and Ephemera Unrelated to CSFA Mural

- Miscellaneous press clippings and other ephemera related to Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, unrelated to Rivera’s time in San Francisco or mural at the California School of Fine Arts, c. 1940s-1970s

Box 1, Folder 17: 1977 Mural “Retouch” by Emmylou Packard

- Includes Packard’s notes on her “retouch” of the mural, and biographical information on Packard.

Box 2

Box 2, Folder 1: 1979: Auction of Preparatory Drawings

- Catalog from June 18 and 19, 1979 Sotheby’s auction of Fine 19th and 20th Century American and European Paintings. The auction included the sale of a

collection of various artworks owned by the San Francisco Art Institute, including a number of preparatory drawings for Rivera's CSFA mural.

Box 2, Folder 2: 1981-2004 Correspondence, Unique Primary Source Material, SFAI P.R. Material pertaining to Rivera's "Making of a Fresco."

Includes an assortment of original and photocopied primary source material pertaining to the SFAI Rivera mural culled from Board Minutes, newsletters, correspondence, and writings. Examples include:

- Set of correspondence from Emmy Lou Packard concerning the Rivera fresco
- October 1982 detailed minutes of meeting with SFAI constituents with Ripley Associates Architects re: "Diego Rivera Gallery Renovation."
- 1992 correspondence from SFAI President Bill Barrett attempting to locate Rivera's sketches that were sold by SFAI in 1979.
- Correspondence from William O'Reilly & Company concerning Rivera, Ralph Stackpole, Emmy Lou Packard about possible Rivera frescoes.
- Correspondence with Ben Wood re: video installation pertaining to Rivera's SFAI Fresco
- SFAI's Public Relations Director Nina Zurier's c.2003 essay about the Rivera mural.
- 2004 correspondence with relative of Geraldine Colby Frickie reputed to be the architect illustrated in the SFAI's Rivera fresco.

Box 2, Folder 3: 1981-1989: Emmy Lou Packard Notes (originals held in City College of San Francisco Diego Rivera Collection)

- Emmy Lou Packard's notes, correspondence, and transcripts made in preparation for her never-completed book on Diego Rivera. Photocopies in this collection were made from the originals held in the City College of San Francisco Diego Rivera Collection. Includes various outlines and partial drafts of Packard's chapter on the CSFA mural; notes and partial transcriptions of interviews with Ernest Born and Sadie Meyer; notes on her retouching of the CSFA mural in 1977; correspondence with Gurdon Woods about the covering and uncovering of the mural; and copies of sources used in her research on Rivera.

Box 2, Folder 4: 1986 Mural Repair and Cleaning by Lucien Bloch and Stephen Pope Dimitroff

- Correspondence arranging conservation work.
- December 1986 SFAI events calendar with description of open house events celebrating the mural conservation work and Diego Rivera's 100th birthday.
- Photographs of Bloch and Dimitroff with the mural. Contact sheet includes images from open house.

Box 2, Folder 5: 1987 Appraisal by Herbert Hoover, American Society of Appraisers.

- Appraisal of the Rivera mural, the small "lunette" murals located in the school's library, and the bas relief by Jaques Schnier, also located in the SFAI library.

Box 2, Folder 6: 1990 Mural Repair by Lucienne Bloch

- Correspondence concerning 1990 repair of damage sustained in the fall of 1989.
- Invoice and record of payment.

Box 2, Folder 7: 1992 Diego Rivera Mural Conservation Workshop (1 of 3)

Documentation of multi-day workshop featuring Lucienne Bloch and Stephen Dimitroff along with conservators Anne Rosenthal, Jim Bernstein, Will Shank, and Molly Lambert.

Contents include:

- Correspondence and other documentation of logistical planning.
- Schedule of event and project description.
- Mural condition report, slide documentation of conservation.

Box 2, Folder 8: 1992 Diego Rivera Mural Conservation Workshop (2 of 3)

- Support/research material for the conservation workshop. Much of this material is copied from previous files in this collection.

Box 2, Folder 9: 1992 Diego Rivera Mural Conservation Workshop (3 of 3)

- Set of video recordings in Hi8 format, documenting the event, including talks by the muralists and conservators, and visits to the Rivera murals at City College of San Francisco and the Pacific Stock Exchange.

Box 3

Box 3, Folder 1: 1996-2020 Press Clippings, etc.

- Photocopy of Anthony Lee's "Diego Rivera's *The Making of a Fresco* and its San Francisco Public," (*Oxford Art Journal*: 19:2, 1996).
- Excerpt from Anthony Lee's *Painting on the Left* related to Rivera's SFAI fresco.
- Curriculum entry for Yale New Haven Teachers Institute, 1999, by Martha Savage titled: "Reflections in the Mirror: A Visual Journal and Mural Inspired by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera."
- Paul Karlstrom's "Diego Rivera's San Francisco Legacy: Modernism, Love, and Politics,"
- *Bohemian Club Library Notes* (Spring 2003, #123).
- *SF Chronicle*, 8-15-2013, article "Following a Thread to her Great-Grandfather, Diego Rivera," about Fernanda Lopez's visit to see the Diego Rivera Collection at the SFAI Library.
- Program/brochure for SFAI symposium, "Diego Rivera and the Mexican Mural Movement: A Contemporary Perspective on Art and Activism," July 11 through July 14, 2012.
- Map researched and designed by B. Alexandra Szerlip, 2010, for the Telegraph Hill Art and Culture Committee titled "Rivera & Kahlo's S.F."
- One page flier pertaining to the Rivera mural mentioning and showing Patti Smith performing in front of the fresco with her quote: "The historic SFAI is a jewel, a work-centric atmosphere of communal process and artistic evolution."

- KQED “Bay Curious” podcast transcript, “Inside Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera’s Life in San Francisco,” December 3, 2020.

Box 3, Folder 2: 1997 Mural Damage, Repair by Inge-Lise Eckmann

- Correspondence concerning damage to the mural sustained in July 1997, and photographs of damage.
- Condition report and treatment proposal by Inge-Lise Eckmann.
- Treatment Report.
- Documentation of payment for conservation treatment.
- Insurance claim for damage to mural.
- Conservation slide documentation of mural.

Box 3, Folder 3: 1997 Appraisal by Herbert Hoover.

- Appraisal by Herbert Hoover, Director of the Hoover Gallery in San Francisco. Mural appraised at \$2,700,000.

Box 3, Folder 4: 1998 George Krevesky Gallery Correspondence re: Collection of Preliminary Sketches of CSFA Mural

- Correspondence from George Krevesky Gallery to SFAI president Ella King Torrey concerning the proposed sale by the gallery to SFAI of a series of preliminary sketches created by Rivera for the CSFA mural.
- Photographs of sketches
- Notes written by Emmy Lou Packard (from City College of San Francisco Rivera Collection) describing the provenance of these sketches.

Box 3, Folder 5: 2001-2004 Conservation

- Documentation of 2001-2004 conservation treatment. Note that this file contains **only a collection of images** taken before and after Phase 1 (2001) and Phase 2 (2004) treatments, no report, etc. (Images have been digitized)

Box 3, Folder 6: 2015 Alejandro Almanza Pereda Exhibition

- Exhibition ephemera from artist Alejandro Almanza Pereda’s exhibition that included an installation of lights as a scaffolding assembled directly in front of the Rivera mural, partially obscuring it from view. (See Also: Exhibitions Department Records)
- Correspondence related to complaints from members of the SFAI community and mural conservator Molly Lambert about the heat generated by the installation, and its potential to cause damage to the mural.

Box 3, Folder 7: 2016 Mural Appraisal (O’Toole Ewald)

- Appraisal by Elin Lake-Ewald and Julia Liberman of O’Toole-Ewald Art Associates of the Rivera mural (appraised at \$15,000,000 fair market value), the lunette murals located in the SFAI library, and the Jacques Schnier bas relief and preparatory drawing, also located in the SFAI library.

Box 3, Folder 8: 2017 Mural Appraisal (Jeremy Stone)

- Appraisal by Jeremy Stone of the Diego Rivera mural (appraised at \$54,829,000, fair market value).

Box 3, Folder 9: 2020 Appraisal (Frances Zeman)

- Appraisal by Frances Zeman of the Diego Rivera mural (appraised at \$50,000,000, fair market value)

Box 3, Folder 10: 2020-2022 Effort to Sell or Endow Mural

Documentation of SFAI's effort to sell or endow the Rivera Mural to stave off financial crisis, including:

- Letter by Mildred Howard in support of sale of the mural, signed by members of the San Francisco arts community.
- Analysis of the mural's copyright status.
- News clippings related to the proposed sale and resulting backlash.
- Expenses listed in bankruptcy claim by consultant working to identify potential buyers.

Box 3, Folder 11: January 2021 Site & Studio Conservation Report

- Report completed by conservators of Site & Studio assessing the physical condition of the mural and evaluating whether the mural could be physically removed from its current location, at the request of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Art Institute.

Box 3, Folder 12: 2021 Landmarking of Mural

- Article 10 Landmark Designation Fact Sheet describing mural's historical significance.
- San Francisco city ordinance designating the mural as a historical landmark.

Box 3, Folder 13: 2022 Mellon Foundation Grant

- Correspondence and news clippings related to a \$200,000 received by SFAI in December 2021 for mural-related conservation, research, archival arrangement and digitization, public programs, and outreach.
- Original grant proposal and proposal for transfer of remainder of grant to the SFAI Legacy Foundation + Archive after the closure of the school.

Box 3, Folder 14: 2022 Conservation (Mellon Grant-Funded)

- Documentation of conservation treatment carried out by Site & Sound Studio Conservation in June 2022. Contains correspondence and Conservation Treatment Report.

Box 3, Folder 15: 2023 Cultural Heritage Imaging (Mellon Grant-Funded)

- Documentation of photogrammetry scanning of the mural carried out by Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI) in January 2023. Contains correspondence and CHI Project Proposal.

Box 3, Folder 16: 2022-2023 Mural's Role in Bankruptcy of SFAI

- News clippings related to the bankruptcy sale of SFAI and role of the mural in that sale. (See also: Chronological Files Collection).