

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 5.68

Office of Secretary of State

Bingham Trust

Abstract: Records of the Bingham Trust, an organization formed to care for the art of George Caleb Bingham maintained by the state of Missouri, 1978-1990 (bulk dates, 1978-1985).

Extent: .2 cubic ft. (1/2 Hollinger boxes).

Record Description: Paper, color slides.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Document copyright is in the public domain. Image copyright held by the Bingham Trust. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder]; [Series]; Bingham Trust, Record Group 5.68; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer. Accession Numbers 90-020 and 2025-0043.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Amy C. Nickless on 12/5/2024.

Historical and Biographical Notes

In 1976 Governor Christopher “Kit” Bond created the non-partisan, not-for-profit Bingham Sketches, Inc. to raise funds to purchase 112 George Caleb Bingham drawings from the St. Louis Mercantile Library. These funds, plus a legislative appropriation approved on May 11, 1976 allowed the material to remain together and in-state (*Laws*

1975-1976, p. 465). After the final payment on June 30, 1979, Bingham Sketches, Inc. was dissolved and replaced by the Bingham Trust.

The Bingham Trust is a five-person board consisting of the directors of the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the State Historical Society of Missouri; the chairperson of the Missouri Arts Council; and Missouri's governor. The trust's goal is to make the artwork available for the benefit of the people of Missouri.

The works managed by the trust are currently divided between the Saint Louis Art Museum in St. Louis and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. Both institutions maintain records related to their holdings.

Timeline

Year	Event
1811-1879	Life of artist and former Missouri State Treasurer (1861-1865) George Caleb Bingham.
1976	Bingham Sketches, Inc. was incorporated and started to raise funds to purchase the Bingham sketches. House Bill 1004 included a \$500,000 legislative appropriation to help purchase the Bingham drawings. Approved and made effective May 11 1976.
1979	Bingham Sketches, Inc. was dissolved and replaced by the Bingham Trust.
2024	The Saint Louis Art Museum held a George Caleb Bingham Symposium on November 15-16 to celebrate the 50 th anniversary of the purchase and creation of the Bingham Trust.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

“Bingham Sketches, Inc. Records (C4522).” *The State Historical Society of Missouri*.

Accessed December 5, 2024.

<https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C4522.pdf>.

“George Caleb Bingham Symposium.” Saint Louis Art Museum. Accessed December 5,

2024. <https://www.slam.org/event/george-caleb-bingham-symposium/>.

Related Material

“Bingham Family Papers (C40998).” *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed

December 5, 2024. <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C0998.pdf>.

“Bingham Sketches, General Correspondence Series, Director’s Office Records.” *St. Louis Art Museum Archives*.

“Bingham Sketches, Loan Correspondence Series, Director’s Office Records.” *St. Louis Art Museum Archives*.

“Bingham Trust Records.” *Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Department of American Art*.

“George Caleb Bingham (1811-1879) Papers (K0470).” *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed December 5, 2024.

<https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/kansas-city/k0470>.

George Caleb Bingham Catalogue Raisonné. Accessed December 5, 2024.

<https://www.binghamcatalogue.org/>.

The Paintings of George Caleb Bingham: A Catalogue Raisonné. Bloch, E. Maurice. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1986.

- Copy located in reading room at REF R 759.13 B 6202.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Donated Images and Books, No Date
Trust Documents, 1978-1990

Donated Images and Books, 1967 and No Date

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Donated Images series contains slides and a guide to the slides plus a printed catalog of Bingham's works. No paperwork could be found granting the Missouri State Archives the rights to the slides.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents
1	8	<i>George Caleb Bingham: A Catalogue Raisonné</i> by E. Maurice Bloch, 1967 Edition
1	1	"George Caleb Bingham Drawing and Paintings"
	2	48 color slides

Trust Documents, 1978-1990

Extent: 6 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Trust Documents series contains documents relevant to the incorporation of the Bingham Trust and its operations from 1978-1985. Most documents are in the names of former First Lady Carolyn Bond or Charles E. Valier, the Chairman of the Trust since inception, and may have been donated by one or both of those individuals.

Many of these documents are duplicates of what is filed with the Secretary of State's Business Services Division.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	2	Declaration of Trust	1984-1985
1	3	First Amendment to the Declaration of Trust	July 9, 1985
1	4	Minimum Loan Standards for Bingham Drawings	June 8, 1979
1	5	Schedules of Art	No date
1	6	Secretary of State Corporations Documents	1978-1982
1	7	Trust Financial Reports	1987, 1990