

Virginia Cuthbert Archival Collection

At
The Charles E. Burchfield Archives

Title: Virginia Cuthbert Archival Collection

Name and Location of Repository: Burchfield Penney Art Center Archives

Date: 1903- 1942

Extent: 22 linear inches of textual and photographic materials, + six 3-dimensional objects [water glasses]

Name of Creator: Virginia Cuthbert Elliott

Biographical History:

Virginia Cuthbert Elliott, who painted under her maiden name, was one of Buffalo's revered artists. She was born in West Newton, Pennsylvania in 1908. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University in 1926 along with a fellowship to study abroad. From 1930 to 1931 she studied in Europe, where she met her future husband, Philip C. Elliott, in Paris. In 1941 the couple moved from Pittsburgh to Buffalo, and Cuthbert became a painting instructor at the Albright Art School, the University of Buffalo, and later at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Cuthbert studied with artists working in a range of styles, including Charles Hawthorne, Colin Gill, George Luks, and Alexander Kostellow. Her work initially was stylistically aligned with the Ash Can School; however, she is best known for her interpretation of a style referred to as Magic Realism.

The Frank K. M. Rehn Gallery represented Cuthbert in its New York Gallery, along with Charles E. Burchfield, Edward Hopper, and Reginald Marsh. Her work received widespread attention during the 1940s and 1950s in solo and group exhibitions and in such national publications as *Fortune* and *ARTnews*. In 1954 she was honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Cuthbert was a member of the New York Society of Women Artists, as well as the Patteran Society, a group of artists who left the Buffalo Society of Artists to pursue what they believed to be a more challenging approach to art. An important retrospective of her work was presented at the Nina Freudenheim Gallery in Buffalo in 1990. In 1995 the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County and the Greater Buffalo Partnership honored Cuthbert with an Individual Professional Artists Award.

Administrative History:

The vast majority of this collection was donated by the family of Virginia Cuthbert in 1983. The 1983 donation consists of sketch books, exhibition catalogs, and assorted published books. In 2014 Joseph Lonzi donated more original sketches by Culthbert and Elliott in a binder with original wedding invitations for Cuthbert and Elliott. In 2015, William Faller donated a photographic album of images from Cuthbert's life. In 2016, Scott Goldman and Nancy Brock donated six glasses with reproduction illustrations by Cuthbert. In 2016, Patrick Flanigen Morris finally began an inventory of the donation in 1983 and all subsequent donations. The Finding Aid was completed by Morris as well, under the direction of Archivist Heather Gring.

Scope and Content:

Within these six containers are a mixture sketchbooks, exhibition catalogs, photographs, and books that were part of the collection of Virginia Cuthbert. All drawing, photographs, painting etc. were allegedly created by Virginia Cuthbert herself.

Conditions governing access: See archivist for details.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Materials donated in 1983 are from Cuthbert/ Elliott estate,

Materials donated in 2014 are a gift of Joseph Lonzi,

Materials donated in 2015 are a gift of William Faller,

Materials donated in 2016 are a gift of Scott Goldman and Nancy Brock

Accruals: No further accruals expected at this time but may occur from multiple donors.

Related Archival Materials: Philip Elliott Archival Collection, Artist files, Patteran Society, Art Institute of Buffalo

Archivist and Date:

Finding Aid compiled by Patrick Flanigen Morris, 2017

Initial inventory created by Patrick Flanigen Morris, 2016

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Series Description

Series 1: Artist's materials

Date: 1903- 1942

Extent: .833 linear feet of textual materials

Scope and Content:

The Materials in this series are a number of photographs, sketchbooks, and loose papers which contain drawings and small paintings composed by Virginia Cuthbert herself. They pertain to a variety of different subjects. Some are suspected to be studies for larger paintings in the Burchfield Penny Art Center collection.

Conditions governing access: See archivist for details

Series Description

Series 2: Published Materials

Date: 1926 - 1976

Extent: 1 linear foot of textual materials

Scope and Content:

This is a small list of books and periodicals that were donated with Cuthbert's sketchbooks in 1983.

Conditions governing access: See archivist for details

Series list

Series 1: Artist's Materials

Identification numbers	Contents	Date	Location
1-1	Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthbert Elliott / 147 Bryant St / Buffalo N.Y." Grey cover; Chunk missing out of right side. Architectural sketches and interior studies. Landscape studies and various notes. Includes a study for "Mental Hospital, 1942" 10 x 14 inches.	c. 1942	box 1, tray 1
1-2	Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "No. 7191- Monterey Drawing" Exterior architectural studies, some figure studies various notes.	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-3	Green, "B.K. Elliot Company" Green cover; Chunk missing top right. Loose landscape studies, watercolor studies, figures in ink, crayon landscapes.	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-4	Coverless, thin paper. figure studies, ink exteriors, portraits, notes	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-5	Brown, "Oxford Studio Sketchbook" Figures and Industrial exteriors, landscape studies.	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-6	Pink "Sketch Diary" "Bienfang paper company" Color pallets, interior study, ink signature	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-7	Brown, "The Albemarle Spiral Sketch book" Caricature, architectural study, watercolor.	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-8	Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthbert / 282 N. Bellfeild / Pittsburgh Penn. Assorted inserts, landscape and exterior studies with notes	No Date	box 1, tray 1
1-9	Light brown fabric bound chunk out of bottom Ink studies of interior, plants, and architecture	No Date	box 1, tray 2
1-10	Grey, "Sprial Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthburt / 419 Meadowcroft Ave. / Mt. le... Pgh. Pa. figure and exterior studies, animals, watercolor landscape	No Date	box 1, tray 2
1-11	Dark Brown spiral photograph, figures and nudes, exteriors	No Date	box 1, tray 2

1-12	Light brown fabric bound "Virginia Cuthbert" Female figures, exteriors, assorted loose studies	No Date	box 1, tray 2
1-13	Black Book label removed ink figure studies, portrait studies	No Date	box 1, tray 2
1-14	Loose Drawings Figural studies black and colored pencils	No Date	Box 1, tray 3
1-15	Loose prints of assorted etchings landscape and architectural studies	No Date	Box 1, tray 3
1-18	[sketch book] dark turquoise cover, text reads "61 Oakley st. Chelsea" portrait, Figure and architecture studies	No Date	Box 1, tray 3
S1-1	Light Brown "Fav-o-rite sketch book" "Property of / Virginia Cuthbert / 147 Bryant St. Buffalo NY Watercolor studies, assorted interior studies / figures	No Date	solander 1
S1-2	Dark Brown Fabric bound faded writing upper left side. "Virginia Cuthbert / 61 oakley st. / Chelsea London industrial studies, landscapes, figures	No Date	solander 1
S1-3	Light brown, "Gumenbacher Drawing paper" Charts, watercolor greyscale female nudes	No Date	solander 1
S1-4	2 loose identical prints people under tree, charcoal	No Date	solander 1
S1-5	pale pink, red spirals watercolor and scape study, ink landscape study	No Date	solander 1
S1-6	light brown "Fav-o-rite sketch book" oil study, list of studies, various half sketches, watercolor nude	No Date	solander 1
S1-7	light brown, "Talent art tablet" nearly empty save a figure study and a garden study	No Date	solander 1
S1-8	green, "artcraft watercolor paper" cross drawn on front architectural studies, ink studies, figures	No Date	solander 1
2-15	Loose ink and watercolor	1924	Box 2
2-16	Marble sketch book "Virginia Cuthbert 396 Bleeker st. NYC" figure studies	No date	Box 2

2-18	Coverless spiral, still life studies	No date	Box 2
2-19	“square deal composition , pcf” lined marble, studies and notes	No date	Box 2
2-20	Fabric cover “sketches” “282 n. bellefield ave.”	No date	Box 2
2-21	Brown spiral bound portrait, still life, figure studies	No date	Box 2
2-22	Spiral “croquis design” ink studies	No date	Box 2
2-23	Coverless landscape studies	No date	Box 2
2-24	Large black fabric bound “V. Cuthbert 147 bryant st. buffalo Ny” landscape figures industrials	No date	Box 2
2-25	Brown spiral sketchbook watercolors, figures landscape	No date	Box 2
2-26	“king size memo pad” ink portraits and figures	No date	Box 2
2-27	“Schizzi design” “Virginia Cuthbert 61 oakley, chealsea London” nudes and figures	No date	Box 2
2-28	Small brown spiral “Langdon hotel” cartoons and architectural	No date	Box 2
2-29	Loose sketchbook backing	No date	Box 2
2-30	Brown spiral “dewey” anatomy and still life studies	No date	Box 2
2-31	Brown spiral, candy drawing on front. Still life and portrait studies with notes	no date	Box 2
2-32	Green spiral acidic pages assorted landscapes	No date	Box 2
2-33	Loose sheet with figure drawings	No date	Box 2
2-34	Brown spiral “property of Virginia Cuthbert 147 bryant street buffalo” still life study	No date	Box 2
2-35	Gray “esquisse” “Virginia Cuthbert Paris” figures and portraits	No date	Box 2
S2 f3	“value Sketch” tracing paper	No Date	Solander 2
S2 f3	“rough color sketch” tracing paper	No Date	Solander 2
S2 f3	“rough line drawing” tracing paper	No Date	Solander 2
S2	Charcoal study adhered to board	No Date	Solander 2
S2	“sun” “eagle on top” perspective drawing adhered to board	No Date	Solander 2
S2	red and black perspective drawing with measurements	No Date	Solander 2
S2 f5	“trees” notes on board	No Date	Solander 2
S2 f5	“notes house all white” notes on board	No Date	Solander 2
3-4 A2014.015.001	Sketches and wedding invitations for Cuthbert Elliot wedding. Portraits and caricatures.	c.1935	Box 3

Series 2: Published Materials

Identification numbers	Contents	Date	Location
1-16	"Understanding Visual Forms" (within ["Understanding Visual Forms" supplementary materials] folder) Hand written notes	No date	box 1, tray 3
1-17	Kranz, Stewart and Fisher, Robert "Understanding Visual Forms, Teachers Manual" (within ["Understanding Visual Forms" supplementary materials] folder +)	Ca. 1976	box 1, tray 3
2-1	Arnold, Bruce "A Concise History of Irish Art" Fredrick A. Praeger	1968	Box 2
2-2	Wixom, William D. Treasures from Medieval France Cleveland Museum of Art	1967	Box 2
2-3	Ginsberg, Robert "Criticism and Theory in the Arts" Parnassus Publications	1963	Box 2
2-4	Hoving, Thomas Gold sculpture book *Unknown* *Unknown* *Unknown*	No date	Box 2
2-5	Peterich, Eckart Vom Glauben Der Griechen Verlag Herder Freiburg	1949	Box 2
2-6	Albright Knox (2) "Privately Owned"		Box 2
2-7	Aujourd' Hui Art and Architecture Number 36	1962	Box 2
2-8	Asia House Gallery "A Flower from Every Meadow, Indian Paintings from American Collections"	No date	Box 2
2-9	Buckingham Palace "Treasures from the Royal Collection"		Box 2

2-10	Christie's "Drawings and Paintings from the Studio of the Late Augustus John"	1900 - 1950	Box 2
2-11	"Collection des Maîtres" "Sculpture Grecque"	No date	Box 2
2-12	Metropolitan Museum of Art "Greek Painting"	No date	Box 2
2-13	Museum of Modern Art "Ben Shahn"	1936- 1946	Box 2
2-14	Smithsonian (2) "Albright- Knox Art Gallery"	1979	Box 2
2-17	"1926 Ginko" yearbook	1926	Box 2

Container List

Container: Box 1

Identification numbers	Content	Date	Location
1-1	<p>Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthbert Elliott / 147 Bryant St / Buffalo N.Y."</p> <p>Grey cover; Chunk missing out of right side. Architectural sketches and interior studies. Landscape studies and various notes. Includes a study for "Mental Hospital, 1942"</p> <p>10"x 14"</p>	c. 1942	box 1, tray 1
1-2	<p>Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "No. 7191- Monterey Drawing"</p> <p>Exterior architectural studies, some figure studies various notes.</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-3	<p>Green, "B.K. Elliot Company"</p> <p>Green cover; Chunk missing top right. Loose landscape studies, watercolor studies, figures in ink, crayon landscapes.</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-4	<p>Coverless, thin paper.</p> <p>figure studies, ink exteriors, portraits, notes</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-5	<p>Brown, "Oxford Studio Sketchbook"</p> <p>Figures and Industrial exteriors, landscape studies.</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-6	<p>Pink "Sketch Diary" "Bienfang paper company"</p> <p>Color pallets, interior study, ink signature</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-7	<p>Brown, "The Albemarle Spiral Sketch book"</p> <p>Caricature, architectural study, watercolor.</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-8	<p>Grey "Spiral Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthbert / 282 N. Bellfeild / Pittsburgh Penn."</p> <p>Assorted inserts, landscape and exterior studies with notes</p>	No date	box 1, tray 1
1-9	<p>Light brown fabric bound chunk out of bottom</p> <p>Ink studies of interior, plants, and architecture</p>	No date	box 1, tray 2
1-10	<p>Grey, "Sprial Sketch Book" "Virginia Cuthburt / 419 Meadowcroft Ave. / Mt. le... Pgh. Pa."</p> <p>figure and exterior studies, animals, watercolor landscape</p>	No date	box 1, tray 2
1-11	Dark Brown spiral	No date	box 1, tray 2

	photograph, figures and nudes, exteriors *Back pages include estimates for framing, paints and mediums*		
1-12	Light brown fabric bound "Virginia Cuthbert" Female figures, exteriors, assorted loose studies	Ca. 1930	box 1, tray 2
1-13	Black Book label removed ink figure studies, portrait studies (binder has been taken apart sketches removed and in adjourning folder)	No date	box 1, tray 2
1-14	Loose Prints and etchings of landscapes	no date	Box 1, tray 3
1-15	Loose drawings of portraits and figures	No date	Box 1, tray 3
1-16	"Understanding Visual Forms" (within ["Understanding Visual Forms" supplementary materials] folder) Hand written notes	No date	box 1, tray 3
1-17	Kranz, Stewart and Fisher, Robert "Understanding Visual Forms, Teachers Manual" (within ["Understanding Visual Forms" supplementary materials] folder)	Ca. 1976	box 1, tray 3
1-18	dark turquoise "61 Oakley st. Chelsea" portrait, Figure and architecture studies	Ca. 1930	box 1, tray 3
1-19	"Fortune June 1951"	1951	Box 1, tray 3

Container: Solander 1

Identification numbers	Content	Date	Location
S1-1	Light Brown "Fav-o-rite sketch book" "Property of / Virginia Cuthbert / 147 Bryant St. Buffalo NY Watercolor studies, assorted interior studies / figures	No Date	solander 1
S1-2	Dark Brown Fabric bound faded writing upper left side. "Virginia Cuthbert / 61 oakley st. / Chelsea London industrial studies, landscapes, figures	No Date	solander 1
S1-3	Light brown, "Gumenbacher Drawing paper" Charts, watercolor greyscale female nudes	No Date	solander 1
S1-4	2 loose identical prints people under tree, charcoal	No Date	solander 1
S1-5	pale pink, red spirals watercolor and scape study, ink landscape study	No Date	solander 1
S1-6	light brown "Fav-o-rite sketch book" oil study, list of studies, various half sketches, watercolor nude	No Date	solander 1
S1-7	light brown, "Talent art tablet" nearly empty save a figure study and a garden study	No Date	solander 1
S1-8	green, "artcraft watercolor paper" cross drawn on front architectural studies, ink studies, figures	No Date	solander 1

Container: Solander 2

Identification numbers	Content	Date	Location
S2	"Fortune, January 1956" Magazine, Cuthbert painting on cover	1956	solander 2
S2 f4	"Dimension for Canvas: Twice up in Size" Cut mat board	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"Dimensions for Cover: Working in actual reproduction Size" Cut mat board	No date	solander 2
S2	"leaves green" 4 panel mat board pencil and charcoal studies for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2	"fortune" "actual cover dimension" two charcoal architectural studies for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"the cover arrived safely Friday" matted cover of fortune magazine june 1951	c.1951	solander 2
S2 f4	"Friday, April 6, 1951, 12:10am"	April 6, 1951	solander 2
S2 f4	"would you please wire us collect on Thursday" photocopy of industrial study for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"April 14, 1951" "the due date for the cover... is still April 20th..." Cut mat board	April 14, 1951	solander 2
S2 f4	"position of the artist"	No date	Solander 2
S2 f4	"photograph of actual phase" two opening mat board	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"two air views of the section" two opening mat board	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"the cover will have to be shipped to us air express" Cut mat board	No date	solander 2
S2 f4	"Friday April 6, 1951" "A photographer, Mr. Howard wills.."	April 6, 1951	Solander 2
S2	"time office memorandum" 2 blue memos, industrial photo	No date	solander 2
S2	"1" torn paper, tape charcoal study for fortune mag	No date	solander 2

S2	"2" 2 sheets of paper adhered to one another scale for fortune mag, and charcoal study	No date	solander 2
S2	"3" "building raised" 3 sheets of sandwiched paper charcoal study for fortune mag	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"buffalo artist sketches the white house" two newspaper clippings	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"Memo, Washington D.C." Two blue memo` sheets	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"telephone message" message reminder from hotel	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"to whom it may concern" memo to the editorial department of fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"reynolds metals" hurricane creek plant visitors pass	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"about the trip to Arkansas" report of trip sent to fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2	"Value Sketch" charcoal architectural study for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2	"rough color sketch on tracing paper" watercolor study for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2	"rough live drawing" pencil study for fortune magazine	No date	solander 2
S2 F1	"Property of Virginia Cuthbert" Adress on board	No date	Solander 2
S2 F2	"4 Bottom" photograph of pipes and manufacturing plant , reference for the cover of Fortune	No date	Solander 2
S2 F2	"3 Bottom" Photograph ripped in half, reference for the cover of Fortune	No date	Solander 2
S2 F2	"2 Bottom" Photograph of manufacturing plant, reference for the cover of Fortune	No date	Solander 2
S2 F2	"4 Top" Photograph of manufacturing plant, reference for the cover of Fortune	No date	Solander 2
S2 F2	"2 Top" photograph circled, reference for the cover of	No date	Solander 2

	Fortune		
S2 f3	“value Sketch” tracing paper	No date	Solander 2
S2 f3	“rough color sketch” tracing paper	No date	Solander 2
S2 f3	“rough line drawing” tracing paper	No date	Solander 2
S2	Charcoal study adhered to board	No date	Solander 2
S2	“sun” “eagle on top” perspective drawing adhered to board	No date	Solander 2
S2	red and black perspective drawing with measurements	No date	Solander 2
S2 f5	“trees” notes on board	No date	Solander 2
S2 f5	“notes house all white” notes on board	No date	Solander 2
	“fortune june 1951” cover	c. 1951	Solander 2
	Xerox copy of study for cover of fortune magazine	No date	Solander 2

Container: Box 2

Identification numbers	Content	Date	Location
2-1	Arnold, Bruce "A Concise History of Irish Art" Fredrick A. Praeger	1968	Box 2
2-2	Wixom, William D. Treasures from Medieval France Cleveland Museum of Art	1967	Box 2
2-3	Ginsberg, Robert "Criticism and Theory in the Arts" Parnassus Publications	1963	Box 2
2-4	Hoving, Thomas Gold sculpture book *Unknown* *Unknown* *Unknown*	No date	Box 2
2-5	Peterich, Eckart Vom Glauben Der Griechen Verlag Herder Freiburg	1949	Box 2
2-6	Albright Knox (2) "Privately Owned"	No date	Box 2
2-7	Aujourd' Hui Art and Architecture Number 36	1962	Box 2
2-8	Asia House Gallery "A Flower from Every Meadow, Indian Paintings from American Collections"	No date	Box 2
2-9	Buckingham Palace "Treasures from the Royal Collection"	No date	Box 2
2-10	Christie's "Drawings and Paintings from the Studio of the Late Augustus John"	1900 - 1950	Box 2
2-11	"Collection des Maîtres" "Sculpture Grecque"	No date	Box 2
2-12	Metropolitan Museum of Art "Greek Painting"	No date	Box 2
2-13	Museum of Modern Art "Ben Shahn"	1936- 1946	Box 2
2-14	Smithsonian	1979	Box 2

	(2) "Albright- Knox Art Gallery"		
2-15	Loose ink and watercolor	1924	Box 2
2-16	Marble sketch book "Virginia Cuthbert 396 Bleeker st. NYC" figure studies	No date	Box 2
2-17	"1926 Ginko" Year book V. Cuthbert mentioned throughout	1926	Box 2
2-18	Coverless spiral, still life studies	No date	Box 2
2-19	"square deal composition , pcf" lined marble, studies and notes	No date	Box 2
2-20	Fabric cover "sketches" "282 n. bellefield ave."	No date	Box 2
2-21	Brown spiral bound portrait, still life, figure studies	No date	Box 2
2-22	Spiral "croquis design" ink studies	No date	Box 2
2-23	Coverless landscape studies	No date	Box 2
2-24	Large black fabric bound "V. Cuthbert 147 bryant st. buffalo Ny" landscape figures industrials	No date	Box 2
2-25	Brown spiral sketchbook watercolors, figures landscape	No date	Box 2
2-26	"king size memo pad" ink portraits and figures	No date	Box 2
2-27	"Schizzi design" "Virginia Cuthbert 61 oakley, chealsea London" nudes and figures	No date	Box 2
2-28	Small brown spiral "Langdon hotel" cartoons and architectural	No date	Box 2
2-29	Loose sketchbook backing	No date	Box 2
2-30	Brown spiral "dewey" anatomy and still life studies	No date	Box 2
2-31	Brown spiral, candy drawing on front. Still life and portrait studies with notes	no date	Box 2
2-32	Green spiral acidic pages assorted landscapes	No date	Box 2
2-33	Loose sheet with figure drawings	No date	Box 2
2-34	Brown spiral "property of Virginia Cuthbert 147 bryant street buffalo" still life study	No date	Box 2
2-35	Gray "esquisse" "Virginia Cuthbert Paris" figures and portraits	No date	Box 2
2-36	*Unknown* "Fortune June 1951" Time inc.	1951	Box 2

Container: Box 3

3-1 A2015.105.001.001	“A Family history” Personal photo album	1903- 1910	Box 3
3-2 A2015.015.001.002	Continuation of photo album	1910 - 1916	Box 3
3-3 A2015.015.001.003	Continuation of photo album	1916-1919	Box 3
3-4 A2014.015.001	Sketches and wedding invitations for Cuthbert Elliot wedding. Portraits and caricatures.	c.1935	Box 3

Container: Box 4

A2016.009	6 glasses designed by Virginia Cuthbert featuring illustrations of Buffalo cultural institutions in gold leaf.	No Date	Box 4
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