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by Emily C. Burns

Scholars have long pointed to 1908 as a watershed year for the development of American modernism because of the revolutionary exhibition of sixty-three paintings by “The Eight” held in February at the Macbeth Gallery in New York. Painters Robert Henri (1865–1929), John Sloan (1871–1951), and six others organized the independent exhibition in reaction to their frustration about the conservative jury selections at the National Academy of Design.[1] While much has been written about this revolutionary gesture and the eclectic exhibition celebrating “artistic freedom, individualism, authenticity, and contemporaneity,” that resulted, art historians have largely overlooked another exhibition of American modernist art that opened in Paris on January 25, 1908 and closed in mid-February.[2] This untitled exhibition was held at the quarters of the American Art Association of Paris (hereafter AAAP), then based at 74 rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs, near the Boulevard Montparnasse (fig. 1).[3] Featuring twenty-two paintings, three sculptures, and twelve photographs (see Appendix A†), the exhibition marked a departure from the club’s preference for academic styles as it featured an eclectic range of aesthetic approaches that included more modernist tendencies.[4]

Fig. 1, Corner View, American Art Association of Paris, Souvenir of the Louisiana Purchase. American Students’ Census, Paris 1903 (n.p.: Printed by Louella B. Mendenhall, 1903): 66. Photograph courtesy of the author. [larger image]

This essay explores the context and content of the 1908 AAAP exhibition, and argues that the show transformed the association into an important venue for modernist collective exhibitions in the years preceding the Armory Show in 1913.[5] The American artist community in Paris held fast to academic traditions, and this exhibition was one of the first displays of American art in Paris that showed stylistic hints of modernism.[6] While the styles presented in the exhibition do not engage with European modernist trends of the decade, such as Cubism, Fauvism or Expressionism, an emphasis on Impressionism and Tonalism marked a transition for the organization towards a belated modernism. Although the exhibition was aesthetically conservative for 1908, critical reaction in the US press celebrated the experimentation and individuality that the exhibition forwarded. The range of paintings included in the AAAP
exhibition highlights the diversity of US artistic practice in Paris in the first decade of the twentieth century; it also offers support for art historian Virginia M. Mecklenburg’s claim that “the most innovative work being done by Americans in the years from about 1907 through 1913 was created in Paris.”[7]

A discussion of this exhibition also offers an opportunity to consider the impact, role, and relations of US artists’ clubs in the foreign capital. The AAAP exhibition specifically challenged the authority of another American artists’ club, the Paris Society of American Painters (PSAP), which was more conservative in its insistence on academic styles. The tensions between these groups reveal fissures within the US artist community in Paris. Like the 1908 exhibition of The Eight, the 1908 exhibition at the AAAP represented a new generation of “younger” artists challenging their elders with works that emphasized artistic individuality and showed new forms of expression. This essay introduces the AAAP and the PSAP, and then considers how an adversarial relationship between the two organizations prompted the January 1908 AAAP exhibition. It also contextualizes the AAAP exhibition as a stepping-stone in the development of American modernism, both in Paris through the construction of another American artists’ club that celebrated artistic individuality, and in New York on the eve of the Armory Show.

The AAAP and the American Artist Community in Paris, 1890–1908

Thousands of American artists studied in Paris in the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. They arrived in increasing numbers with each passing decade until World War I.[8] The first wave of US art students went to Paris in the 1860s, after the American Civil War, and many expatriated, finding successful careers in France and Great Britain.[9] These artists sought academic training at the École des Beaux-Arts, and steadfastly followed its stylistic conventions.[10] By the 1890s, a younger generation of US artists tended to come to Paris for a shorter duration, merely for training purposes. Many of them skirted the bureaucratic process of entry to the École; they favored short-term instruction at the Académie Julian, the Académie Colarossi, or other small académies on the Left Bank of the foreign capital.[11] While these smaller academies tended to follow the academic model of the École with a focus on the nude model and the progression from pencil sketch to oil sketch to layered painting, more experimental atelier spaces opened in the 1890s and early twentieth century, such as the Académie Carmen and the Académie Matisse.[12] Most American painters continued to submit their art to the Paris Salons until World War I, but some artists began to seek out more avant-garde spaces, such as the Salon des Indépendents and the Salon d’Automne.[13]

Study in Paris became a rite of passage for American art students, but working overseas was often fraught with xenophobic reactions to the influx of foreigners in the city, anxieties about the art market and exhibition opportunities, and tense artistic competition.[14] Debates raged about the tariff imposed, from 1883 to 1913, by the United States on imported luxury goods. The tariff initially included works of art that had been produced overseas, regardless of the nationality of the artist. Many artists claimed that paintings by US artists should be brought to the US without tax, regardless of where they had been painted or how long artists had been working overseas. Discussions about expatriation and exemptions from this tariff created hostilities among groups of US artists in Paris, and between Paris-based and United States-based artists.[15] Furthermore, by the end of the century, many US critics began to complain
about the Gallic style that American artists embraced. A nativist retrenchment challenged artists abroad to maintain a perceptible national identity in their style and iconography, and these tensions continued to play out as American artists experimented with modernist approaches.[16] Around 1890, several American artists’ clubs were founded to alleviate these anxieties, but while serving this purpose they also heightened divisions within generations of the American artist community in Paris.[17]

At the AAAP founding ceremony in 1890, Whitelaw Reid (1837–1912), the American ambassador to France, emphasized the club’s potential to aid students abroad who “have not forgotten their Americanism.”[18] According to one French observer, the AAAP enabled its members to “remain closed to our influence” even while residing in the foreign capital.[19] In its celebration of cultural nationalism, the club responded to anxieties about the Europeanization of American art. Until the start of World War I, the AAAP was a nexus of US art practice in France, a place where hundreds of American artists met and exhibited under its auspices. Between 1890 and 1922 there were over a thousand members, with the greatest distribution during the first decade of the twentieth century. The AAAP organized at least fifty exhibitions in Paris between 1890 and 1914.[20]

American painter A. A. Anderson (1847–1940; fig. 2) founded the AAAP and served as its president until his return to the United States in 1895, when he was succeeded by Rodman Wanamaker (1863–1928), the son of the Philadelphia department store mogul.[21] Living in Paris while purchasing merchandise for his father’s Philadelphia department store, Wanamaker had been an honorary member since the club’s founding.[22] He may have treated this position as philanthropy to help fledgling artists, as well as an opportunity to scout for art to purchase for his father’s personal collection.[23] The merchant encouraged AAAP members to organize annual exhibitions of the works of American art students, as well as to host regular displays of sketches, posters, and etchings. These shows offered artists at the start of their careers the opportunity to exhibit in Paris whether or not their work would later be admitted to the Salon. Many artists treated these exhibitions as a springboard into the Parisian art world, as both the American and French art papers and magazines published regular exhibition reviews.[24] Under Wanamaker’s lead, the AAAP courted Parisian dealers, such as the famous Paul Durand-Ruel (1831–1922), in whose gallery works by members were exhibited from January 2 to 13, 1900.[25] An anonymous writer in the Quartier Latin, the AAAP journal, mused, “Not only have [these competitive exhibitions] drawn general attention to the sphere which the Association is beginning to fill as a great centre of American art in Europe, but they have stimulated the Association itself to greater activity.”[26]
The AAAP’s art exhibition space, as seen in a photograph of the interior of the site at rue Notre-Dame des Champs in 1904 (fig. 3), was intimate. This typical AAAP exhibition hints at the styles regularly displayed at the club’s annual exhibitions. The walls are triple hung largely with figure paintings and landscapes. Busts by academically trained sculptor Theodore Spicer-Simson (1871–1951) stand on pedestals in the doorway.[27] In the back room, double hung works on paper and smaller sketches are visible. These hanging styles replicated the displays at the Paris Salons in the smaller space of the club quarters, which were, according to one viewer, “spacious and well-lit.”[28] Two of Herbert Waldron Faulkner’s (1860–1940) atmospheric paintings of Venice, probably akin to his undated Venice (fig. 4), were included in this exhibition. According to a French reviewer, Faulkner was “one of the masters of the group” who regularly exhibited at the AAAP.[29] As did many other members of the AAAP, Faulkner produced art that historians have stylistically defined as the juste milieu, or within the academic tradition but selectively appropriating more avant-garde styles only after they had become absorbed into popular taste.[30] The AAAP generally held conservative attachments to the academic process; AAAP sketch exhibitions, for example, often displayed academic studies from the ateliers, some of which were reproduced in the Quartier Latin. Club organizers sought to encourage US art practice in Paris, but in addition to combating xenophobia in the French academy with their insular exhibitions for club members, also confronted another American artists’ organization in Paris known as the Paris Society of American Painters.
“To See that American Works Receive Proper Attention:” The Paris Society of American Painters

The PSAP was an artist organization comprised of the old guard of American expatriate artists, who had been academically trained in Paris in the 1860s and who began to exhibit collectively between 1890 and 1894.[31] Their practices of jointly controlling exhibition content began in 1889, but the organization did not write its bylaws until 1897.[32] The club was open by nomination and election to “any professional American painter residing in France,” but newspaper reports suggest that the group was deliberately kept small and exclusive.[33]

Pearce (1851–1914), Julius L. Stewart (1855–1919), Julian Story (1858–1919), and Edwin Lord Weeks (1849–1903). Dannat served as president for much of the club’s history. The artist achieved acclaim in the 1880s with *La Femme en Rouge* (1889; Musée d’Orsay) and *The Quartette* (fig. 5), two tightly painted scenes, which, when shown in the American Galleries at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1889, were hailed as an example of an American artist’s mastery of French academic styles.[34]

![Fig. 5, William Turner Dannat, The Quartette, 1884. Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Photo: http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/10614.](larger image)

True to the academic training that most of them had received, PSAP members favored a conservatism in style and subject matter. Member artists continued to produce academic paintings throughout the early twentieth century without acknowledging modernist artistic trends. For example, Weeks’s *Indian Barbers—Saharanpore* (fig. 6), which was exhibited in the Exposition Universelle of 1900 in Paris, is an Orientalist genre scene in which a number of Indian street barbers carry out their trade against the backdrop of a crowded street. The painting is striking for its composition, showing a series of groupings of barber and client beginning in the right foreground and diagonally receding into the background. With its academic brushstroke and insistent compositional structure, the painting does not register any engagement with Impressionism or Symbolism, let alone the more modernist Post-Impressionist styles that developed in fin-de-siècle Paris. Like most paintings by the members of the PSAP, Weeks's painting depicts a non-American, "foreign" subject. The preference of the group for French peasants and Europe’s colonial subjects became a cause of criticism in France and the United States around 1900, when critics like Ellis Clarke wrote disparagingly about art that does "not exemplify American spirit or reflect American life” and that is "little more than French art with American trimmings."[35] Clarke and other critics encouraged American artists to focus on subjects that drew from the United States and to seek out alternatives to the academic artistic language that furthered the hegemony of the French academy.
The PSAP headquarters were located on the place Pigalle in Montmartre, far from the rest of the American artist community in the Latin Quarter. Most of the PSAP artists worked in well-furnished studios that contrasted sharply with the unadorned garrets commonly used by artists on the Left Bank.[36] Throughout the early twentieth century, PSAP artists exhibited in the Salons of the Société des Artistes Français and of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, and in the Paris salonnets, which were private clubs that offered short-term monographic exhibitions for the display and sale of academic art.[37] Members also used the organization to show their paintings in major international exhibitions across Europe. As Story recounted in 1896, “It was and is our object to see that American works receive proper attention at the various art exhibitions.”[38] PSAP members would write to exhibition organizers directly to request the opportunity of constructing American art displays. Generally, organizers welcomed the opportunity as it allowed them to avoid going through American governmental channels, skirting a good deal of bureaucratic busy-work.[39] By 1901, the press observed that the PSAP “practically controls the American exhibits at the continental picture shows.”[40]

Against a “Petrified Body”: The AAAP and the PSAP

While The Eight challenged the National Academy of Design’s stringent exhibition admission standards, the simultaneous revolution that took place in Paris at the headquarters of the AAAP targeted the PSAP. The groups’ distinct constituencies created animosity and rivalry between them. In contrast with the PSAP’s elite expatriate focus, the AAAP centered on supporting young US artists as it reached out to the estimated fifteen-hundred male American art students based in Paris. The AAAP was more inclusive than the PSAP—the former had over 500 members in 1897, compared with the latter’s 18. Because PSAP artists lived in Paris indefinitely, the AAAP claimed to protect artists’ nationalism while they studied abroad in a temporary capacity. They celebrated artists who, according to one critic, "made use of Paris, instead of permitting Paris to make use of them.”[41]

American artists and critics in both Paris and New York levied a wide range of complaints at the PSAP members between its founding and the 1908 AAAP exhibition. Artists on the Art
Committee for the Exposition Universelle of 1889 who became involved with the PSAP, particularly Bridgman, Knight, Harrison, and Hitchcock, orchestrated the separation of the US art exhibit between art by American artists living in France, and those submitting work from the United States. [42] This division bifurcated the American artist community between those who embraced the cosmopolitan approach inculcated in Paris, and those who espoused nativist trends. The Exposition jury was largely comprised of future PSAP members as well. Reviewers, such as British critic Theodore Child, focused much more on paintings in the American expatriate art galleries at the Exposition than on the works of US-based painters, inciting conversations among critics that US art had become too “Gallic.” [43] As French critic André Michel wrote, “What is a little wanting in this American Exhibition is native painting on native subjects.” [44] Concerns about the excessive “Frenchness” of American art reverberated throughout the American artist community in Paris until the start of World War I, but the PSAP ignored them.

The PSAP’s ubiquitous control of US participation in international exhibitions made them, according to one detractor, “the arbiter of American art abroad.” [45] As in 1889, PSAP members were influential in constructing the American exhibition of the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900 by negotiating with the official organizers. [46] For this large, publicized, and important Exposition, the PSAP ran into conflict with the US organizing committee. The PSAP was so manipulative in its involvement that John Britton Cauldwell (1855–1932), Director of the Planning Commission for the Exposition, wrote to Assistant Director Charles Kurtz (1855–1909) that he worried the PSAP were “making some supreme effort to control the space or obtain [a] separate pavilion.” He warned Kurtz “to keep a sharp look out and unfathom any secret plans that they might have.” [47] While in 1900 the US galleries were integrated between expatriate and US-based artists, paintings like Weeks’s Indian Barbers—Saharanpore (fig. 6), garnered attention for its grasp of French academic technique and its embrace of Orientalism.

Many artists complained about the PSAP members’ lack of cooperation with the wider US artist community. [48] When the PSAP did not have enough available paintings to submit to international exhibitions in Budapest (1904), Vienna (1905), or Munich (1905) because they were committed elsewhere, the group did not encourage other artists to take their place; instead, the United States was not represented in these shows. [49] A critic from the Philadelphia Inquirer published complaints about “the high-handed methods in vogue among the members” of the PSAP. According to this critic, “things Parisian are not received here among artistic people with the same unquestioning faith” as in the past and “the tide has turned toward things purely American.” [50] As the Society continued to designate conservative paintings for exhibition in Europe, member artists were censured as outmoded in style. The PSAP’s tight control on exhibition spaces and its focus on academic methods and scenes of French peasantry became out of step with shifts in US art and the rise of cultural nationalism.

The PSAP came under fire for its singular focus on marketing members’ work as well as for its position in the art tariff debate, which caused complaints of self-interestedness. [51] PSAP members successfully lobbied to alter the tariff law to their advantage; earlier laws had allowed a tariff exemption for artists who lived abroad “temporarily,” for a maximum of five years, but the elimination of this policy in 1899 allowed the paintings of PSAP artists, all of whom had lived in Paris for decades, to travel freely to the United States. [52] Meanwhile, art by French
and other foreign artists was levied at entry to the United States to purportedly nurture US-based artists. Many American artists complained that the unnecessary tariff meant that foreign artists would boycott US art and industry overseas.[53] Others insisted that international models were needed as didactic tools for US art students who could not afford to travel overseas.[54] Therefore, many US-based artists lobbied to abolish the tariff altogether. After the PSAP members manipulated the law to their advantage, however, they were no longer invested in the debate. A lobbying group of artists asked the PSAP to sign a petition against the tariff in 1906 and 1907, and newspapers complained that none of the PSAP agreed.[55] Throughout the early twentieth century, US-based and non-PSAP Paris-based artists complained that PSAP members prioritized their own professional and financial interests over national ones and at the expense of non-member artists.[56]

A divide is apparent between the PSAP’s stated policy that they annually recruited junior artists, and the reality of their exclusive membership. One newspaper noted that the organization regularly considered “the pictures of the younger American painters in Paris” to keep track of the professionalization of US artists abroad. The article continued, “when it is found that any artist has attained to such maturity that his works may be depended upon to be of sufficient merit to sustain a good reputation of American art, he is proposed for membership in the society.”[57] Yet, no committee charged with recruitment of junior members is listed in the different versions of the PSAP constitution. Furthermore, between the 1890s and early twentieth century, PSAP membership remained largely stagnant, suggesting that the artists had been reticent to expand their membership. After the 1908 AAAP exhibition, however, the PSAP initiated such recruitment.[58]

In late 1907, grumbles resurfaced within the walls of the AAAP about the long-standing hegemony of the PSAP in the international art world. The New York Times quoted from the rising complaints: “Not more than three or four members of that petrified body are doing anything for the cause of American art. In fact, very few of them continue to paint. In the course of years it has become a purely political organization, holding a monopoly of official recognition.” These critics protested the Paris Society’s “closed corporation” and its “monopoly” on art awards through what reporters sardonically titled a “Decoration Trust.”[59] This discussion splintered the American artist community in Paris into factions that divided the established expatriate artists from the junior generation.

The growing AAAP membership put pressure on the PSAP; one critic wrote that the AAAP is “crowding the members of the older society very hard,” but another complained that the growing influence of the younger generation was not yet effective: “In spite of its efforts, the smaller and older body remains a blighting influence upon the younger Americans studying or working in the French capital.”[60] The incidents that continued to arise in which the PSAP acted out of self-interest perpetuated unrest in the US artist community in Paris. AAAP members hotly debated exhibition opportunities and choices of artistic style, leading some artists to attempt to counter the domination of the PSAP.

In November of 1907, the AAAP followed the course of The Eight in New York, who had announced in May of 1907 that they would organize their own exhibition at Macbeth Gallery the following winter.[61] In their complaints to newspaper reporters about the PSAP’s stronghold on international exhibitions, the AAAP expressed their goal “to combat this ancient tradition,
which has given rise to much bitterness in the American art colony in Paris for years past.”[62] The Philadelphia Inquirer stated, “The American Art Association, in Paris, which numbers amongst its members all the younger American painters and sculptors in Paris, has declared war on that club called the Society of American Painters in Paris.”[63] The New York Times reported, “the younger American artists in Paris have decided that this ancient injustice must end.” The AAAP, the writer continued, was “quietly organizing the greatest exhibition ever given in the history of that organization,” an intimate selection of “the best recent works of its most gifted members.”[64] The American Art News reported that this “wide-awake society” would give, condensed in a few paintings, a fair idea of the qualities developed by young American artists in the course of the last few years.”[65] Furthermore, the press concluded that the exhibition would show “that in the [AAAP] alone is to be found representative American talent abroad.”[66]

“The Birth of a New School”: The AAAP Exhibition in January 1908

Like The Eight’s combination of eclectic artistic modes of expression and insistence upon an inclusionary model of exhibition, the AAAP’s January 1908 exhibition displayed a range of artistic styles including American Impressionism and Tonalism, as well as objects that tentatively approached abstraction.[67] AAAP shows were usually the product of a jury selection of works submitted by club members, but for this new exhibition, the AAAP art committee sent out “special invitations” to artists requesting their participation.[68] Contemporaries noted that the curating of this special exhibition offered more of an argument for viewers about “the development of American art” with “a unity of effect and an identity of purpose.”[69] When Ellis Clarke complained about the “alien element in American art” in 1901, he discouraged artists from “renounc[ing] individuality.”[70] The AAAP organizers picked up on Clarke’s thread in their attempt to highlight the individual visions of the participating artists. While many of these styles and subjects still drew from French art and landscapes, US critics insisted that the artists possessed individual stylistic preferences that indicated their ultimate independence from those influences. In this, the exhibition eschewed the academic conventions that gained credence through collective acceptance in the PSAP and the AAAP to date, in favor of a strident individualism. Its catalogue (Appendix A ‡), which does not include a title or follow the typical format of AAAP exhibition catalogues, announced the included objects.[71]

In the AAAP January 1908 show, American Impressionism was featured in the paintings of Daniel Putnam Brinley (1879–1963), George Oberteuffer (1878–1940), Frederick Frieske (1874–1939), and Albert Worcester (1878–1935). Although Impressionism was old hat to the Parisian avant-garde, in 1908, it was still considered radical in the United States, causing one American critic to remark that in Paris young American artists were “making strides as yet unimagined in America.”[72] Based on the catalogue, which is among his papers, Brinley exhibited two landscapes, Early Morning on the Arno and Sunlit Garden. Neither work has been located, but they probably shared an affinity with the Impressionist style of Daisy Field (Silvermine) of 1909 (fig. 7), which appeared in the Armory Show five years later.[73] This painting depicts Brinley’s predilection for bright, saturated color and thick facture.
Oberteuffer exhibited two landscapes, one entitled *Old Havre*, and the other *The Port Moonlight*, “a very decorative impression of boats in a moonlit harbor.”[74] While these landscapes have not been identified either, Oberteuffer’s style of this period is exemplified in his loosely-dashed brushwork in *Place de la Madeleine (Paris)* (fig. 8).[75] In 1911, critic E. A. Taylor described Oberteuffer’s paintings of French subjects as indicative of the artist’s singular vision, when he wrote, “first and foremost he is a colourist and technically his work is virile and spontaneous. He sees with his own eyes, and what he sees he interprets with a strong belief.”[76] Taylor also praised the work of American Impressionist Frieseke, who was one of the second generation of American painters at Giverny and who had exhibited at least annually with the AAAP since 1900. In the January 1908 AAAP exhibition, Frieseke included “two very characteristic pictures”: *Interior* and a painting entitled *The Model.[77] These paintings have not been located but a reviewer described them as “interiors with figures which are right in tone and clever in handling.”[78] Frieseke’s typical style of this period is exemplified by *Reflections (Marcelle)* (fig. 9) of about 1909, in which a nude woman contemplates her form in a mirror within a purple-white interior.
Worcester also exhibited a *Nude*, in addition to a painting entitled *Girl with Fan*. The latter painting has not been located, but *Nude* may have been the work that was successfully received at (and reproduced in the catalog of) the Salon of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts in 1905 (fig. 10). In Frieseke’s and Worcester’s depictions of the nude, the artists employ loose brushstrokes, bright colors, and impasto to the background setting, but maintain the integral structure of the human body. Their combination of Impressionist and academic approaches within the same painting suggests their moderated engagement with modernist styles.

The AAAP exhibition also featured Whistlerian Tonalist paintings with diluted pigments and little impasto. Theodore Scott Dabo (1865–1928) presented *Winter Morning – Honfleur* and *Summer Evening*. These paintings, the whereabouts of which are unknown, were probably
akin to *The River Seine* of about 1905 (fig. 11), which critic Amelia Von Ende (1856–1932) described as “*plein d’air* [or] full of air, which means atmosphere, light, life.”[82] Dabo’s painting, like the style of his brother Leon (1864–1960), combines monochromatic green washes to create a misty view of trees across the Seine. Edward Steichen (1879–1973), who had exhibited at the AAAP earlier in the decade, was represented by two paintings, both simply entitled *Landscape.*[83] These paintings were probably in the Tonalist mode that is seen in the suffused moonlight scenes that Steichen produced during this period, such as *Moonlit Landscape* (fig. 12).[84]

A few artists included in the AAAP exhibition also drew from Impressionist approaches, but employed a freer expressive brushstroke and allowed for unpainted areas that flattened and drew attention to the surface. John Marin (1870–1953) contributed two such watercolors.[85] He submitted a painting called *Charenton* (presently unlocated), a view of a town along the
Seine to the southeast of Paris, and another entitled Footbridge - Meaux, set in a town to the north of Paris. The latter work was probably one of a series of watercolors of Meaux typified by an extant painting, Mills and Footbridge, Meaux, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (fig. 13).[86] While Marin displays an Impressionist-inspired interest in depicting a moment, these watercolors also indicate, according to one scholar, “the abstract potential of late nineteenth-century aestheticism” in which the artist “eliminated any spatial illusionism, creating essentially a flat, decorative arrangement.”[87] In Mills and Footbridge, Meaux, the sky and water are flattened into a single plane, and while the colors are mimetic, his brushwork is reductive instead of built up with the impasto of Impressionism. His quick strokes, especially in the dark gray on the bridge and in the reflections on the water, verge on expressionism. Marin combines aspects of Impressionism and Tonalism in these experiments. Latvian-born artist Maurice Sterne (1878–1957), who exhibited two unknown landscapes at the AAAP with “an agreeable line composition,” was also associated with Post-Impressionism.[88]

Fig. 13, John Marin, Mills and Footbridge, Meaux, 1908. Watercolor and graphite on paper. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Photo: http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/488321 [larger image]

The 1908 AAAP exhibition was also the first at the club to feature photography. In addition to landscape paintings, Steichen also exhibited twelve photographs, including eight original autochromes and four reproductions of autochromes that he had published in Camera Work. [89] Steichen had been experimenting with the new color process that was announced in Paris by the Lumière brothers in June 1907. His displays included autochromes of Rodin with his sculpture of Eve and of Stieglitz holding an issue of Camera Work (fig. 14), in which the fleshtones of Stieglitz’s face and hands stand out against the darkness of his suit. His portraits of George Bernard Shaw, whom he celebrated for his role in revealing “the unmechanicalness of photography,” and of Lady Ian Hamilton, both made in London, emphasize the power of the new medium to capture vibrant color.[90] In On the House Boat – “the Log Cabin,” Steichen included George Davidson (1854–1940), a managing director of Kodak, and three other figures in a setting constructed to appear anecdotal (fig. 15). Though fairly traditional portraits, Steichen’s contributions show an insistence on the newest techniques and a focus on coloration. In On the House Boat, for example, the maroon and pink hats reverberate with bright color. Stieglitz explained in a letter to the editor of the London magazine Photography that Steichen’s London autochrome experiments “are artistically far in advance of anything he had to show you.”[91] In Stieglitz’s celebration of the autochrome based on Steichen’s
examples, he announced, "soon the world will be color-mad."[92] The New York Times also celebrated this "remarkable series of photographs in colors of a richness in tone hitherto unachieved in Europe."[93]


![Fig. 15, Edward Steichen, On the House Boat—'the Log Cabin,' 1908. Autochrome. Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis. Photo: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_Steichen_-_On_the_House_Boat--%22The_Log_Cabin%22_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg [larger image]](larger)

The AAAP exhibition also featured modernist sculpture. Jo Davidson (1883–1952), who was known for busts and small statuettes such as the one of Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (fig. 16), submitted a sculptural portrait (whereabouts unknown) of Alfred Maurer (1868–1932), an American modernist who was not included in the exhibition, though he was active within this coterie of artists in Paris and at the AAAP.[94] The New York Herald described the portrait as "excellent in character."[95] Mahonri MacKintosh Young (1877–1957) was represented by a "statuette," perhaps one of his small sculpted figures of laborers, such as The Shoveler (fig. 17). The grandson of Brigham Young,
the sculptor had studied at the Académie Julian and had participated in AAAP exhibitions at least since 1904.[96]


Fig. 17, Mahonri MacKintosh Young, *The Shoveler*, 1902–03 (posthumous cast). Bronze. Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo. Photo: https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/gospel-library/magazine/ensignlp.nfo:o:29b2.jpg [larger image]

A few additional artists may have been originally slotted for inclusion in the AAAP’s January 1908 exhibition, including Maurer, Patrick Henry Bruce (1880–1936), and Max Weber (1881–1961); though not included in the catalogue, a notice that appeared in the *American Art News* listed these three painters alongside the exhibiting artists.[97] Not all of the artists who exhibited their works in the AAAP’s show are still known today. Maximilian Fisher was represented by two paintings entitled *On the Balcony – Study* and *On the Great Atlantic*, but all that I have been able to ascribe to his hand are advertisements in *L’Illustration* in 1911 and 1912 for the French corset company Persephone. The art nouveau style of these advertisements is similar to some of the illustrations that AAAP members printed in the club journal, the *Quartier Latin*, which was published between 1896 and 1899. Richard Duffy, who submitted a sculpture entitled *Mask*, is completely unknown today, as is the American
Impressionist painter J. E. Kunz, who submitted *Flower Study* and *Snow Effect* and who had exhibited at the AAAP several times between 1904 and 1908. Robert J. Coady, who became a New York dealer and art editor of the New York-based modernist magazine the *Soil* in 1916, submitted two paintings to this AAAP exhibition, entitled *Brighton Beach* and *En Scene*. Though Coady's paintings are lost, his articles in the *Soil* suggest a fervent belief in an “American art” that is “young, robust, energetic, naïve, immature, daring and big spirited.”

By the second decade of the twentieth century, Coady became an outspoken commentator who celebrated a nativist belief in the potential of US art to shed European influence.

A tension exists between the content of the show, which privileged well-known styles like Impressionism and Tonalism, and the critical response in the US press that declared it a trailblazing modernist intervention. Coady and other US reviewers of the AAAP exhibition characterized the display as unique and nationally-determined in the midst of the Paris art world. In an article proudly titled “Start New School in Art,” an unidentified reviewer from the *New York Times* emphasized, “All the pictures exhibited, in impression and style, are of a kind hitherto unknown in Paris.” With statements like this, critics overlooked the presence of French iconography and the belated embrace of styles that had developed in the 1890s or before and had already been surpassed by more avant-garde styles by French and other immigrant artists. This Paris-based reviewer seems to be comparing the AAAP show with the overall conservative and academic character of US art exhibited in Paris at the traditional Salons, circulated by the PSAP, and usually on view at AAAP exhibitions.

While this exhibition was conservative in relation to the art on view in the same year at the Salon d’Automne and the Salon des Indépendants, it marked a transition in the character of American art in Paris, exemplified by the *juste milieu* style of Faulkner (fig. 4), and the academic processes of Dannat (fig. 5) and Weeks (fig. 6). In making claims about the uniqueness of the AAAP display, reviewers also overlooked the art’s stylistic resonances with European modernism; they ignored, for example, links between Young and Belgian artist Constantin Meunier (1831–1905), who also made representations of laborers such as *Puddler* (fig. 18), which shares a similar exaggerated musculature with Young’s *Shoveler* (fig. 17).

Similarly, critics did not mention the visual resonances of the American Impressionist paintings by Brinley and Frieseke with the art of Claude Monet (1840–1926) or French Impressionism. In spite of the apparent stylistic convergence with European art in the styles on display, the *New York Times* concluded that it was an “exhibition of unusual importance” and announced “the birth of a new school.”
While the US press responded in detail to the AAAP exhibition, the French press was remarkably silent about it, suggesting that more American than French visitors were in attendance.[103] The US celebration of the exhibition likely drew more from its avant-garde gesture in rejection of the stronghold of the PSAP than from the objects it featured. Furthermore, the eclectic selection of objects tapped into ideas about artistic individualism; the 1908 AAAP show was marked by the stylistic variety seen in the works on display, which ranged from Impressionism and Tonalism to a tentative expressionism. While many of the styles were not necessarily original, when the works of art were exhibited together, each submission seemed singular when compared to the others. This individuality of vision highlighted the contingent possibilities of artistic production that viewers registered as a collective rejection of the influence of academic art in favor of unique personalities. Nativist critic Hamlin Garland (1860–1940) often celebrated American Impressionism because, he argued, “almost everywhere it is finding individual expression.” Garland celebrated diversity in that even as American artists were interested in the stylistic “principles” of European modernism, they “all have a different touch—they are gaining mastery of an individual technique.”[104] Critics in 1908 applied the same idea to the AAAP exhibition; it was as diverse as The Eight’s show, if not more so, with its pairing of Brinley’s vibrant colors (fig. 7) with Steichen’s moody landscapes (fig. 12) and its combination of new photographic processes, painting, and sculpture. US critics interpreted the diversity and pluralism as a mark of shedding links with both the PSAP and traditional artistic conventions in the foreign capital.

**Stepping-Stones to American Modernism: Reverberations in Paris and New York**

Although the AAAP organized and supported the exhibition, it incited controversy between the club members and its financial supporters. Under Wanamaker’s presidency, the AAAP board was expanded to include some of the most prominent US businessmen in Paris, many of whom saw their involvement in the organization as a patriotic philanthropy.[105] The club’s Board of Governors preferred academic art and objected to the rising modernist trends perceived in the works in the exhibition. The board sought to restrict similar projects. In reaction to the board’s intervention, the AAAP Art Committee for the more traditional annual mid-winter exhibition in
February went on strike to protest such "unwarranted interference."[106] In the absence of the committee, the paintings were hung haphazardly and many of the artists removed their works from the exhibition, leading to a "comparatively small"[107] show that was, according to one reviewer, "not very important."[108]

By May, the Art Committee was repopulated with artists who possessed stylistic preferences that mimicked the range shown at the January AAAP exhibition.[109] New AAAP Art Committee members included Robert Lee MacCameron (1866–1912), who produced academic portraits; Maurer, who worked in a modernist manner, influenced by Fauvism and Cubism; Arthur Garfield Learned (1872–1959), who was known for his etchings and paintings of a juste milieu style akin to that of Faulkner (fig. 4); and George Henry Leonard Jr. (1869–1928), noted for his impressionist approach.[110] That this committee reflected the eclectic nature of the January AAAP exhibition suggests that the member artists reasserted their authority even in the face of the board. Wanamaker took a short leave from his role as president shortly thereafter, which may have been connected with the controversy between the board and the artist members. [111] This greater diversity on the committee opened later AAAP exhibitions to a larger range of artistic styles.

Caricatures of American artists in Paris by Maurius de Zayas (1880–1961) from the years immediately preceding the outbreak of World War I imply that the social community became significantly less polarized by aesthetic preferences than it had been in the 1890s when tensions between the AAAP and the PSAP ran high. In one illustration for a 1910 article about Americans in the Latin Quarter (fig. 19), de Zayas depicted modernists Marin, Steichen, and Arthur Carles (1882–1952), alongside Impressionist Frieseke and more academic portraitist MacCameron, at a poker table in the Café du Dome.[112] De Zayas's illustration implies a greater fluidity of the social network among artists who adopted distinct artistic styles in early-twentieth century Paris than in the divisions between the AAAP and the PSAP memberships, who interacted only irregularly.

Fig. 19, Maurius de Zayas, Illustration for "Where the Latin Quarter Trilbies Gather; the Domeless Dome of Paris," The World Magazine, November 27, 1910. Photograph courtesy of Meredith Ward, New York. [larger image]
The success of the January 1908 AAAP exhibition encouraged its invited artists, along with other artists in their circle who were not featured in the show, including Maurer, Weber, Bruce, and MacLaughlan, to create a new artists’ organization, which they called the New Society of American Artists in Paris (hereafter NSAAP), in continued challenge to the PSAP.\[113\] (For a list of NSAAP members, see Appendix B.) Eight of the founding members were included in the January 1908 AAAP exhibition. The controversies that followed that exhibition may have suggested to its most experimental artists that they needed a separate organization to support their work. The AAAP’s large membership of diverse artists may also have inspired this group to create a smaller modernist collective. On February 25, 1908, Steichen hosted a meeting in his studio, just around the corner from the AAAP, to designate the NSAAP as a “full-fledged secessionist movement”\[114\] in an attempt to “pry the old society [the PSAP] from its position as the arbiter of American art abroad.”\[115\] Steichen recalled that the impetus to form the NSAAP was opposition to the PSAP “whose work has not developed beyond that of early Impressionism.” He complained that the PSAP “vigorously excluded all the younger and bolder painters from their exhibition.” He said that “after several more meetings we announced in the Paris edition of the New York ‘Herald’ and cables to the New York edition” the formation of a new society.\[116\]

NSAAP members set an immediate goal to intervene in PSAP plans for the US display at an international exhibition in Vienna in 1908.\[117\] Brinley wrote to his sister on March 3, 1908, “The Quarter is much excited over ‘The New Society of American Painters.’ It is certainly making a stir. Put [Brinley], with other members will have pictures exhibited in Vienna next spring!”\[118\] While Brinley’s biographers note that this plan did not come to fruition, the PSAP did broaden its membership for the first time in about ten years.\[119\] Frieseke, Maurer, Theodore Butler (1861–1936), and several other painters were invited to join the PSAP between 1908 and 1910.\[120\] Not only did this new membership increase PSAP numbers, but it also expanded the stylistic preferences accepted by the organization.

Like The Eight and the organizing committee of the AAAP January 1908 exhibition, the NSAAP did not dictate a homogenous artistic style. Newspapers published press releases that stated that any US artist in Paris could submit work to the NSAAP advisory board of Brinley, MacLaughlan, Maurer, Steichen, and Weber for consideration for admission to the organization.\[121\] Though this process ironically recycled the type of PSAP policies that the American artist community in Paris vilified, the NSAAP claimed to offer an “absolutely democratic” structure that replaced the hierarchy of membership positions with an “advisory board.”\[122\] Like The Eight and the organizers of the AAAP January 1908 exhibition, the NSAAP stated the need for collective exhibitions to celebrate the broad individuality of artistic styles, rather than following traditional conventions.\[123\] Also, unlike the PSAP it sought to upend, the NSAAP placed a greater emphasis on the medium of sculpture, even in their title that replaced “Painters” with the more inclusive term of “Artists.”

Many older US artists were not impressed with the formation of the NSAAP, which they saw as a petty ploy to “secure prizes.”\[124\] Long-time PSAP member Melchers “declined to discuss the matter in any way” but then was quoted: ”Personally . . . it makes no difference to me how many societies of Americans are formed in Paris. . . . I have found always that it pays to say nothing in such cases.”\[125\] An anonymous artist wrote from New York to complain that the
only artists in the secession he had ever heard of were Steichen and Maurer, and intimated that the other, unknown artists were merely trying to skip the "twenty and thirty years" that the elder artists had contributed to art-making in Paris to reach their privileged position.[126]

Illustrator Louis Loeb (1866–1909) sided with the PSAP, insisting that the organization was a harmless dining club, which took on "considerable responsibility" and the "thankless task" of ensuring that the US presence at international exhibitions was appropriately strong.[127]

Painter Albert Sterner (1863–1946) explained that without a consistent style, the so-called secession of the NSAAP would be nothing more than "amusing." Sterner also argued that the group could never make a contribution to American art because they were Paris-based; he wrote, "there will never be a successful American art movement which does not originate in America. You cannot take an organization of painters representing one nation, but living in some other country, and produce anything distinctive in the way of achievement."[128] Henry Watrous (1841–1918), a conservative painter in the National Academy of Design, was even more irked; he declared, "It's simply the old story of the young kicking the old."[129]

Perhaps its detractors anticipated that the NSAAP would be a short-lived venture; both the PSAP and the AAAP outlived it. The PSAP was still active in 1921, with Dannat as the continued president.[130] AAAP activities slowed during World War I, but expanded after the war and continued to host exhibitions throughout the 1920s.[131] Yet, the NSAAP's demise by 1912 suggests that the need for venues to exhibit modern art had been met.[132] Furthermore, by this period, New York increasingly supplanted Paris as a center for modernist experimentation. [133] Most NSAAP members had returned to the United States by 1910, and many of them became important figures in the American avant-garde.[134]

The AAAP's January 1908 exhibition and the organization of the NSAAP played an important role in the early careers of many of its participants and was a stepping-stone in the development of American modernism. A thread can be drawn through the AAAP's exhibition and the NSAAP to the Younger American Painters exhibition of 1910 and the Armory Show of 1913. Several of the artists who exhibited at the AAAP's special exhibition and founded the NSAAP showed at Stieglitz's New York gallery 291, in solo exhibitions, and in Younger American Painters.[135] Art historian Virginia Mecklenburg suggested that the pluralistic membership of the NSAAP—including Marin, Brinley, Maurer, Weber, and Steichen—inspired the concept of exploring American artists’ engagements with European avant-garde art.[136] NSAAP members formed the core of Stieglitz's exhibition. The exhibition title echoes the language around the challenge to the PSAP; for example, in 1907 the New York Times had announced, "the younger American artists in Paris have decided that this ancient injustice must end."[137] This concept of the "younger" generation framed the critical discourse around these modernist exhibitions, including the Armory Show, and was used as a euphemism for artists’ rejection of tradition.[138]

Many of the January 1908 AAAP exhibitors and the NSAAP members exhibited in the Armory Show in 1913. The idea of an artist corporation carried over in the construction of the Association of American Painters and Sculptors (AAPS), which organized the Armory Show. [139] Brinley served on the Domestic Arts Committee, which was responsible for organizing the US display.[140] When AAPS members came to Paris to petition French participation in the international exhibition, they also encouraged Davidson, Maurer, and Bruce, the only three NSAAP members remaining in Paris, to submit their work.[141] Artists who showed in the
January 1908 AAAP exhibition and the Armory Show included Brinley, Marin, Duffy, Davidson, and Young. NSAAP members represented in the Armory Show included Bruce and Maurer as well. Both the AAAP and the NSAPP highlighted developments in American sculpture, which was also a priority of AAPS members in curating the Armory Show.[142] These organizations also shared an interest in educating the audience about the rise of modernism. While the AAAP exhibition was intended to “show the development of American Art,” AAPS members requested that artists submit their “most advanced work.”[143] At their founding, the NSAAP announced that their organization would play a didactic role in educating “the American public” in modern art.[144] In this goal, the NSAAP anticipated the ambitions of the Armory Show.[145] In their didactic goals, both exhibitions were designed to show viewers artistic progress through carefully curated selections of contemporary art.

Some of the artists who exhibited in the AAAP exhibition in January 1908 further developed their styles in the succeeding years towards a greater expressive and experimental modernism. Marin, for example, exhibited at the Armory Show a watercolor series of Lower Manhattan that included the Woolworth Building and St. Paul’s, Lower Manhattan (Broadway, St. Paul’s Church) (fig. 20) that extended his studies in blue and gray at Meaux (fig. 13) toward a more frenetic, suggestive, and minimalist depiction of his New York subject.[146] In his New York studies, the artist developed the expressive character of the watercolor medium, further eschewing Impressionist and Tonalist models that tentatively appeared in the Paris paintings. In its encouragement of individual styles, the AAAP exhibition became a springboard for further modernist experimentation for some of its exhibiting artists.

Fig. 20, John Marin, St. Paul’s, Lower Manhattan (Broadway, St. Paul’s Church), 1912. Watercolor on paper. Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington. Photo: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~museum/armory/galleryK/marin.144.html [larger image]

The AAAP exhibition reveals the complexities of art practice within the United States-Paris art world through the central role of arts organizations. The exhibition also suggests that even as New York was increasingly seen as a modernist epicenter for art making, Paris still functioned as a crucial site for the development of American modernism in the early twentieth century. Though the works displayed at the AAAP’s January 1908 exhibition may seem largely tame compared with other modernist innovations in Paris that preceded them, including Fauvism and Cubism, they mark a shift in the aesthetics emphasized in the US artist community in Paris.
from academic to eclectic. A writer for the European edition of the *New York Herald* explained that the AAAP exhibition and the NSAAP showed that "many American artists are taking the road of all that is modern in art."[147] This exhibition exemplified US artists’ growing interest in the rejection of academic conventions in favor of artistic experimentation. At the very least, it celebrated eclecticism, as American artists hinted at—or, as Mecklenburg writes of the Armory Show—"slouched toward the idea of modern art in America."[148]

Appendix A
[return to †, return to ‡]

– Catalogue for January 1908 AAAP Exhibition

From the Daniel Putnam Brinley and Katherine Sanger Brinley Papers, 1879–1984, Box 12, Folder 7, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. (fig. 21)

Fig. 21, Catalogue for January 1908 AAAP Exhibition. From the Daniel Putnam Brinley and Katherine Sanger Brinley Papers, 1879–1984, Box 12, Folder 7, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. [larger image]

Appendix B – List of Members of the New Society of American Artists in Paris (NSAAP)[149]

*signifies advisory board

Daniel Putnam Brinley*
Patrick Henry Bruce
Arthur Carles
Robert J. Coady
Jo Davidson
Richard H. Duffy
Emily C. Burns is Assistant Professor of Art History at Auburn University. Her research considers Franco-American artistic and cultural exchange in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She holds a PhD in Art History and Archaeology from Washington University in St. Louis. Her dissertation, “Innocence Abroad: The Construction and Marketing of an American Artistic Identity in Paris, 1890–1910,” explores American artists’ performances of cultural belatedness in response to French expectations about American culture. She has completed extensive research about American artists’ clubs in Paris and is currently developing a book manuscript on the visual culture of the American West in the French imagination during the fin-de-siècle. Her research has been funded by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Terra Foundation for American Art, the Baird Library Society of Fellows, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

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Notes

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[3] This building, which served as club headquarters from 1903 until 1909, is no longer extant.


[6] Conversations about global arts and cultural nationalism have encouraged scholars to question the terms “America” and “American art” because they problematically act as metonyms for the United States instead of for the entire continents of the Americas. In this essay, I often employ “United States” or “US-art” when referring to this particular nation. However, in the late nineteenth century, the term for individuals from the United States was “American,” thus the term appears throughout this essay, albeit with reservation. Another essay that nicely blends this careful phrasing is Craig Houser, "Disharmony and Discontent: Reviving the American Art-Union and the Market for United States Art in the Gilded Age," Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide 11, no. 2 (Summer 2012), accessed January 22, 2015, http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/index.php/summer12/craig-houser-disharmony-and-discontent.


[20] There is no one single archive for the AAAP. I have culled this data about membership numbers and exhibition history from hundreds of newspaper articles about club activities and exhibitions, artists’ papers, and collected exhibition catalogues.


[24] French newspapers that regularly commented on the exhibitions of the AAAP include Journal des Artistes, La Chronique des arts et de la curiosité, and New York Herald, European edition. Some exhibitions were also reviewed in Les Temps.


[29] “l’un de maîtres de ce groupe, c’est Herbert W. Faulkner.” Ibid.

[31] On the PSAP, see Jennifer Martin Bienenstock, The Forgotten Episode: Nineteenth-Century American Art in Belgian Public Collections, exh. cat. (Brussels: American Culture Center, 1987), 13; Jennifer Martin Bienenstock, "From Yankee Ingenuity to Yank Be Artistry: American Artists at the Antwerp World’s Fair of 1894," Museummagazine (Museum voor Schone Kunsten) 7 (1987): 41; Fink, American Art, 130; and Erica E. Hirshler, "At Home in Paris," in Adler, Hirshler, and Weinberg, Americans in Paris, 105. While the year of the club’s founding is uncertain, the PSAP emerged from the idea of a Paris-based contingent organizing exhibitions in Europe. Story claimed that the PSAP was founded from the committee of American artists in France that organized the Exposition Universelle of 1889 in Paris. See “Mr. Julian Story Talks About Art,” New York Herald, European ed., November 29, 1896, 5; and “A Talk on Art: Mr. Julian Story Discusses the Position of American Artists in Europe,” New York Herald, November 15, 1896, section six, 15. Bridgman recalled that the organization had evolved from the jury for the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893: “I suggested that we found a permanent society, to be known as the Paris Society of American Artists. At first the members of the organization kept in touch with one another by means of a series of monthly dinners. There were only a dozen members then, but the prestige of the initial nucleus, its subsequent organization and conservative growth, have made it one of the most powerful and influential bodies of its kind in all Europe.” “Frederic A. Bridgman and Some of His Paintings,” New York Times, April 24, 1904, S5; and Ileen Susan Fort, “Frederick Arthur Bridgman and the American Fascination with the Exotic Near East” (PhD diss., City University of New York, 1990), 385.


[33] The Paris Society of American Painters: Constitution, Article 2, Section II.


[38] "Mr. Julian Story Talks About Art," 5.

[39] See, for example, Jennifer A. Martin Bienenstock, “Gari Melchers and the Belgian Art World: 1882–1908,” in Gari Melchers: A Retrospective Exhibition, ed. Diane Lesko and Esther Persson, exh. cat. (St. Petersburg, FL: Museum of Fine Arts, 1990), 102–5. The PSAP submitted paintings to exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia (1899); Dresden (1901); Vienna (1902); the National Academy of Design in New York (1903); Antwerp (1903, 1908); and Liège (1905).

The number of American art students in Paris is suggested in “Art Students’ Fête,” 1.

“Art Societies in Paris,” March 7, 1908, 5.

“Artists Give Dinner to Director Cauldwell,” Philadelphia Inquirer, March 10, 1901, 12.


Orcutt, “Buy American?,” 89.


US-based painter William E. McMaster (1823–89) was one of many who claimed that “the American artist in Paris and his brother in this country are entirely different.” See “The Duty on Paintings: The Other Side of the Controversy Clearly Stated by Mr. MacMasters [sic],” New York World, Apr 14, 1883, 5. On the frustrations of other Paris-based artists with the PSAP, see “News of Art and Artists” Philadelphia Inquirer, December 22, 1907, 10.


A dearth of knowledge about which specific paintings were on display makes the exact nature of the exhibition and paintings' levels of abstraction or expressionism difficult to assess. I consider objects that are roughly contemporaneous with the exhibition to best ascribe style, but some artists, like Maurice Sterne, had a wide stylistic range during this period.


The reviewer from the European edition of the *New York Herald* commented positively on Worcester’s color, but was less impressed with *Girl with the Fan* because “the design on the fan seems to come away from the rest of the picture.” “Exhibition at the American Art Association,” 6.

[81] On Dabo, see Merrill and others, After Whistler, 170.

[82] Amelia Von Ende, “The Art of Leon and Theodore Scott Dabo,” Brush and Pencil, January 1906, 6, 7. Von Ende concluded with the comment that “Comparison with Whistler has been frequent; but while Arsene Alexandre calls the art of Theodore Scott Dabo the realization of what Whistler attempted, Theodore Duret, the authority on Whistler, pronounces his work absolutely unique, comparable to nothing heretofore known.” Ibid., 14.


[84] The reviewer celebrated the depiction of “vast distance in one of his landscapes,” and highlighted that “in the other, the balcony and tree composition is very happy.” “Exhibition at the American Art Association,” 6. Other similar landscapes include Shrouded Figure in Moonlight (1905, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, University of Nebraska) and Across the Salt Marshes, Huntington (1905, Toledo Museum of Art).


[86] The inclusion of titles of towns in the AAAP catalogue has enabled me to research their locations and consider possible pieces from the Marin catalogue raisonné. Charenton may be akin to a watercolor from 1908 entitled Country, France, reproduced in Meredith E. Ward, John Marin: The Breakthrough Years from Paris to the Armory Show (New York: Meredith Ward Fine Art, 2013), 13. Other possibilities of Marin watercolors of Meaux are reproduced in Sheldon Reich, John Marin: A Stylistic Analysis and Catalogue Raisonné (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1970), 2:327, 330, 331, and 336. Another from the series is in the Art Institute of Chicago.

[87] Reich, John Marin, 16, 18. See also Ward, John Marin, 7–11.


[89] The autochromes were not yet installed when the New York Herald reporter came to see the show, but the writer noted that “the reproduction of some of the works in question were on show and seemed really surprising.” “Exhibition at the American Art Association,” 6. On the autochrome, see John Wood, The Art of the Autochrome: The Birth of Color Photography (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1993); and Luisa Casella, “On View Jan 25-30: Original


[92] Ibid.


[95] “Exhibition at the American Art Association,” 6. The catalogue attributes the portrait bust of Maurer to Davidson, but the New York Herald review assigns the bust to Young, who is recorded to have made a sculpture of Maurer. Perhaps both artists made sculptures that depicted their colleague, or there is an error in the catalogue.


[98] The reviewer from the New York Herald commented that the artist “is very successful in his representation of falling snow, and his flower study is fine in color.” “Exhibition at the American Art Association,” 6. The artist was living in Cincinnati by 1918.


[100] “Start New School in Art.” C1. It is possible that the reviewer was long-time art critic Charles de Kay (1848–1935), who wrote regularly about American art in New York and in Paris, but it is not known for certain. The New York Times covered enough of the Paris art scene to have had a Paris-based reporter to visit such an exhibition and wire the review back. The author also recalls a conversation with Steichen in Paris so presumably saw the exhibition.

[101] On Meunier, see Micheline Jerome-Schotsmans, Constantin Meunier: Sa vie, son œuvre (Brussels: Belgian Art Research Institute and Olivier Bertrand, 2012); and Hilde van Gelder, ed. Constantin Meunier: A Dialogue with Allan Sekula (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2005). Both artists also respond to Auguste Rodin’s textured surfaces. See Roberta K. Tarbell and Ilene.
Burns: The American Art Association of Paris in 1908


[103] One article claimed that "many eminent art critics of Paris commend the unusual warmth of the work now done by this group of young Americans," but I have not located the reviews suggested by this comment. See "Start New School in Art," C1. The US press much more closely followed the events succeeding the AAAP exhibition, such as the founding of the New Society of American Artists in Paris, than the French press.


[110] "Yankee Artists in Warfare," A2; "Hanging Committee Strikes," C1; "Chicago Artist is Honored," Chicago Daily Tribune, May 12, 1908, 8; and "Art School for Women," 10.


[114] "Paris Art 'Secession,’” 5.


[116] This exhibition may have been one of the annual international exhibitions hosted at the Hagenbund, or in the Kuenstler Haus as in 1902. See Matthias Boeckl, Agnes Hussein-Arco, and Harald Krejci, Hagenbund: A European Network of Modernism, 1900–1938 (Munich: Hirmer, 2014).

[117] Loeder and Clunie, Daniel Putnam Brinley, 12 (counted from title page). Brinley’s nickname was "Put."

[118] Ibid.


[121] "Paris Art ‘Secession,’” 5. The AAAP had hosted a one-man exhibition for Sterner in April 1896. See “Art Notes,” American Register April 25, 1896, 6. The Quartier Latin reported on it and reprinted the poster in its November 1896 issue.


[123] Ibid.


[126] Ibid.

[127] Ibid.

[128] Ibid. The AAAP had hosted a one-man exhibition for Sterner in April 1896. See “Art Notes,” American Register April 25, 1896, 6. The Quartier Latin reported on it and reprinted the poster in its November 1896 issue.


[132] See Atkinson and Homer, New Society of American Artists, 16. The book is unpaginated, but the list appears on the first page of Atkinson’s essay, the sixteenth page from the cover page. On the rise of artists’ organization and available exhibition spaces, see McCarthy, “American Artists,” 68–75.

[133] The shift to New York as the epicenter of US modernism is recounted in Corn, Great American Thing.


Musée d’Art Américain Giverny, 2002). On this exhibition, see McCauley, “Edward Steichen,” 63–64.


Illustrations

Fig. 1, Corner View, American Art Association of Paris, Souvenir of the Louisiana Purchase. American Students’ Census, Paris 1903 (n.p.: Printed by Louella B. Mendenhall, 1903): 66. Photograph courtesy of the author. [return to text]
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Fig. 3, Ellis, La salle d’exposition, Henri Frantz, “Une colonie d’artistes américains à Paris,” Revue Illustrée, September 15, 1904, clipping, Archives, Musée Rodin, Paris. Photograph courtesy of the author. [return to text]
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Fig. 9, Frederick Frieseke, *Reflections (Marcelle)*, before 1909. Oil on canvas. Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah. Photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Carl_Frieseke#mediaviewer/File:Reflections_(Marcelle),_Frieseke.jpg [return to text]
Fig. 11, Theodore Scott Dabo, *The River Seine*, 1905. Oil on canvas. Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit. Photo: [http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=45713&msg=](http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=45713&msg=) [return to text]
Fig. 12, Edward Steichen, *Moonlit Landscape*, 1903. Oil on canvas. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Photo: http://www.mfa.org/collections/object/moonlit-landscape-34302 [return to text]
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Fig. 17, Mahonri MacKintosh Young, *The Shoveler*, 1902–03 (posthumous cast). Bronze. Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo. Photo: https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/gospel-library/magazine/ensignlp.nfo:o:29b2.jpg [return to text]

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Fig. 19, Maurius de Zayas, Illustration for “Where the Latin Quarter Trilbies Gather; the Domeless Dome of Paris,” The World Magazine, November 27, 1910. Photograph courtesy of Meredith Ward, New York.
Fig. 20, John Marin, *St. Paul’s, Lower Manhattan (Broadway, St. Paul’s Church)*, 1912. Watercolor on paper. Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington. Photo: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~museum/armory/galleryK/marin.144.html [return to text]
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