Art


*Arkansas Post Office Art in the New Deal:* Gill, John Purifoy


*At Work: The Art of California Labor:* Edited by Mark Dean Johnson.


This book explains the genesis of the CCC art program, and pays tribute to the dedicated New Dealers who navigated through endless government red tape to make it work. A remarkable story emerges of one young, untried artist, Marshall Davis, who found his footing and future once he connected with the three C's. He would become the longest associated and most prolific of the CCC artists. His many poignant and humorous illustrations are instrumental in the telling of the real story of the CCC. For more info about the author, visit New Deal Stories [here](#).

Common Man, Mythic Vision, The Paintings of Ben Shahn: The Jewish Museum, New York,


Throughout the Great Recession American artists and public art endowments have had to fight for government support to keep themselves afloat. It wasn’t always this way. At its height in 1935, the New Deal devoted $27 million—roughly $469 million today—to supporting tens of thousands of needy artists, who used that support to create more than 100,000 works. Why did the government become so involved with these artists, and why weren’t these projects considered a frivolous waste of funds, as surely many would be today? This book explores these questions and uses them as a springboard for an examination of the role art can and should play in contemporary society. Musher argues that those engaged in New Deal art were part of an explicitly cultural agenda that sought not just to create art but to democratize and Americanize it as well. By tracing a range of aesthetic visions that flourished during the 1930s, this brand new book outlines the successes, shortcomings, and lessons of the golden age of government funding for the arts.


Federal Art and the National Culture: The Politics of Identity in New Deal America: Harris, Jonathan. Cambridge


Federal Relief Administration & The Arts: McDonald, William F. Ohio State.

Federal Relief Administration and the Arts: The Origins and Administrative History of the Arts Projects of the Works Progress Administration, McDonald, William F. Ohio State University


New Deal Art in Arizona: Fahlman, Betsy. University of Arizona Press, 2009, 240pp, 100 b&w photos. ISBN: 978-0-8165-2292-7, $49.95. (Use the code “FLR” and take 20% off price. Contact at 1-800-426-3797.) Fahlman is a professor of Art History at Arizona State University. She is one of the directors of the Southwest Art History Annual Conference held each October in Taos, N.M., and a member of the NNDPA.


A New Deal For The Arts: Bustard, Bruce I. University of Washington Press, 1997

The New Deal For Art: The Government Art Projects of the 1930s with Examples from New York City and State: Park, Marlene and Markowitz, Gerald E. Gallery Association of New York State, 1977.


Note: This book will be released Oct. 1, 2016.


Portfolio of Spanish Colonial Design in New Mexico: Text by E. Boyd Hall. LPD Press, 925 Salamanca NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107-5647. 128 pp., 50 color and 15 black and white plates. ISBN-1-890689-21-1
Posters for the People
This book includes nearly 500 of the best and most striking posters from the New Deal's Federal Art Project. Roughly 125 of them have never been catalogued before by the federal government and will be new additions to the WPA LIVING ARCHIVE, a virtual archive. Order the book by sending $50 to Design for Social Impact, 525 S. 4th St, Studio 588, Philadelphia, PA 19147. For more info, email ennis@dfsi.org.


**Timberline Lodge, A Guided Tour**: Published by Friends of Timberline. 2005. P.O. Box 69544

**Tradition and Innovation in New Deal Art**: Contreras, Belisario R., Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press. London and Toronto: Associated University

**Treasures from the Basement**: A WPA Art Discovery: Lohman, Mersha, Heritage, Vol. 11, No. 3, Spring

**Treasures on New Mexico Trails**: Discover New Deal Art and Architecture: Flynn, Kathryn A. (Editor). Santa Fe: Sunstone Press

**Utah Art of the Depression**: Burke, Dan E. Utah State Fine Art Collection Exhibition 1986.


---

**THE MURAL IN AMERICA**

Wall Painting in the United States from Prehistory to the Present
by Francis V. O'Connor, Ph.D.

**MAJOR HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN MURAL IS PUBLISHED AS A WEBSITE**

GO TO:

*The Mural in America*

---

**March 2010**

The independent historian of American art, Dr. Francis V. O'Connor, announces the electronic publication of his long-awaited history of mural painting in the United States.

Dr. O'Connor states the following about his book:

“The purpose of this electronic publication is to make available to scholars, students, muralists, artists and the general public - at no charge - the text of a book that fills a gap in our understanding of the development of American art and culture. Being readable, citable, searchable and augmentable, my ambition is that this book shall grow over the years - and inspire more scholarly research in the field of the American mural that this book opens up for the first time.”

With this publication of *The Mural In America: Wall Painting in the United State from Prehistory to the Present*, Dr. O’Connor tops off his nearly 45-year-long career as an art historian. Previously he has, with eight books and over one hundred essays, documented the Abstract Expressionist artist, Jackson Pollock, opened up the field of the New Deal art projects with his early research and publications, established the utility of psychodynamic theory as a vehicle for the interpretation of art - and now has presented a survey of American wall painting with the electronic publication of the *Mural in America*.

For more information about Dr. O’Connor, and his complete bibliography – GO TO: [http://www.fvoconnorsbooks.com/index.htm](http://www.fvoconnorsbooks.com/index.htm)
NOTE: This book is not an “E-book” to be downloaded into a hand-held mechanism like a Kindle or iPad. It is a website that is a book, handsomely designed by Steve Kennedy skennedy@somewhereinamerica.com to offer in itself, with emphasis on its being readable, searchable, citable and augmentable, all the services of a published monograph.

Dr. O'Connor's book, *The Mural in America*, is divided into nine parts:
Part One - The Mural as an Art Form
Part Two - Native American Murals
Part Three - Colonial and Early American Murals
Part Four - The Murals of the United States Capitol
Part Five - The Academic Mural Movement
Part Six - The Transition to Modernism
Part Seven - The 1930s Mural Movement
Part Eight - The Mural as Private Act and Public Art
Part Nine - The Community Mural Movement and Postmodernism

Each part is illustrated with about 300 reproductions and 100 site diagrams, and concludes with a selected bibliography. Electronic publication permits the book to be used in three ways. It can be read scrolling down part by part, it can be consulted with the aid of an analytic index, and it can be searched globally for all references to a specific artist or general idea. Over time, it will also be open to the addition of new textural and bibliographic material. Its Appendix contains a valuable generational chronology of American muralists from ca. 1750 to the present.

Dr. O'Connor began this book in the early 1980s after earlier doing extensive research into the New Deal visual art programs of the 1930s, and the Abstract Expressionist artist, Jackson Pollock - and realizing that there was no book about American murals. He undertook this study with the help of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the United State Capitol Historical Society, and the National Humanities Center. Some thirty years later, realizing that the manuscript was not going to be published under present economic conditions, that it was beyond the capacity of the "books-on demand" system of self publishing - and that "paper is the papyrus of the 21st century" anyway - he decided to turn it into a website publication.

The purpose of this book is to get scholars and students of American art and culture in all fields to see wall painting and its unique capacity to document historical situations by virtue of its intended permanence and site-specificity, as a wide window into the past by the very fact that its scale and intentions transcend the aperture of the easel painting.

The writing of this book has been difficult, since there is virtually no literature on the major muralists and their walls. What literature there is often uneven and dated.
It is Dr. O'Connor’s hope that this publication will prompt scholars and their students to start a massive research endeavor about wall paintings. Indeed, every item with three black dots [...] after it in the text ought to prompt some scholar’s monograph, and his or her students’ M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. Writers of biographies and art books will find many important artists in need of documentation about their lives and works.

**DVDs, Videos**

**Promises Kept:** New Deal Art in New Mexico. Colores program KUNM-PBS, Albuquerque, NM. 1996.

**Artists at Work: New York New Deal Art Project:** New Deal Films, Inc. Corrales, NM. 1981 (Both Video and DVD)

**New Deal for Artists:** B/W/color; in 4 parts, 45 min. each.
- Part I The Federal Theater
- Part II The Federal Writers Project
- Part III The Federal Arts Project
- Part IV The Documentary Photography of the Farm Security Administration

**NM’s New Deal Art and Architecture:** Matthew Chalom. Santa Fe Prep School 9th grade project 1998. Tours Santa Fe and Albuquerque to view ND art and architecture. Matt and father, Mark (an architect). 22 min. No sound.