

## **A Mid-Century Artist's Haven and the Early Days of the Washington Art Association**

**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30pm

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of this program.

### **Program Description**

As part of the Gunn Historical Museum's Artist Lecture Series, **former Curator of the Gunn Museum Sarah Griswold** presented, "A Mid-Century Artist's Haven and the Early Days of the Washington Art Association" on Zoom. This program was co-sponsored by the Washington Art Association.

Along with its physical beauty, historic homes, well-tended public buildings, rolling, verdant hills, and generations of devoted residents, Washington is known for its lively and long-standing commitment to the arts. The Washington Art Association (WAA), founded in 1952 by Margaret Train Samsanoff and a small group of local artists and patrons, gave importance to and has fostered this legacy for the past 68 years. The lecture took a close look at these individuals including the talented artists William Talbot, Esther Peck, Alice Snow, and Feodor Rimsky. They were all committed to enriching the Washington community through creating, exhibiting, and learning about art. The presentation also explored the social, political, cultural, and historical environment that gave rise to the WAA's formation. It looked at early exhibitions and social events that set the tone for decades to follow. The lecture then culminated with a brief overview of where the WAA is today and a reflection of its ongoing legacy.

### **About Sarah Griswold**

Sarah Griswold is an Independent Consultant to cultural and nonprofit organizations, including the Connecticut League of History Organizations/Connecticut Humanities, the Institute for American Indian Studies, Lebanon Historical Society, the Litchfield Historical Society, and the Mattatuck Museum. Previously, she served as Curator of the Gunn Historical Museum and as Executive Director for the Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House in Woodbury, CT. She was also a Partner/Consultant at the Ericson Business Group, LLC in Woodbury, CT.



Founders of the Washington Art Association (WAA) in 1952. From the collection of the WAA.



Sarah Griswold