



Yolo County Historical Collection

NEWSLETTER

CONSERVING YOLO COUNTY PORTRAIT FRAMES

By Laura Tust, Conservator

April 19th, 1:00pm

Tust Studio was contracted to repair damaged frames in the Yolo County Historical Collection. Over the course of 2023 and into early 2024, they restored, and in some cases rebuilt, many of our portrait frames. Join Laura Trust as she explains her process of painstakingly conserving these frames. Then view her work as you explore the exhibit.

PICTURE YOURSELF IN YOLO COUNTY PROJECT

The Yolo County Historical Collection strives to create diverse exhibitions that show the history of all Yolo County residents. The goal of the Picture Yourself in Yolo County project is to work towards the telling of a more inclusive history through community collaboration. If you want to see yourself in the Gibson House, use the Picture Yourself activity sheet at the end of this newsletter or on the YCHC website [here](#).

Collections Object Spotlight

Postcards from Calthea Campbell Vivian

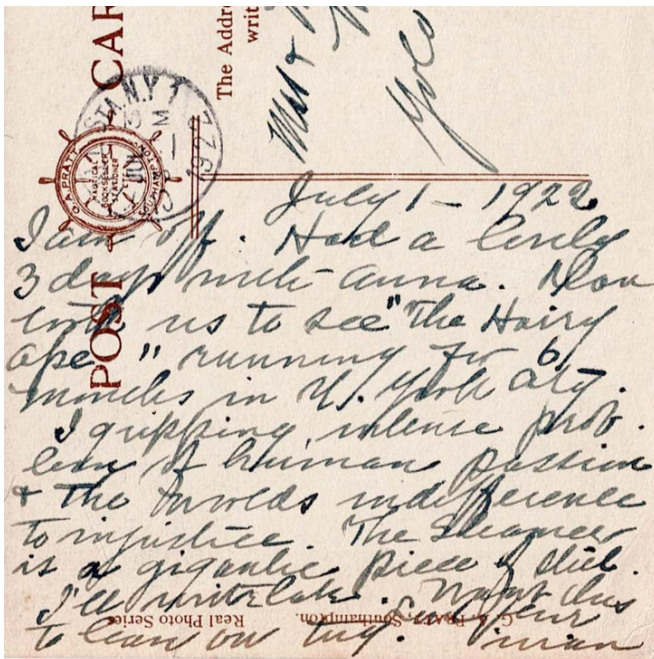
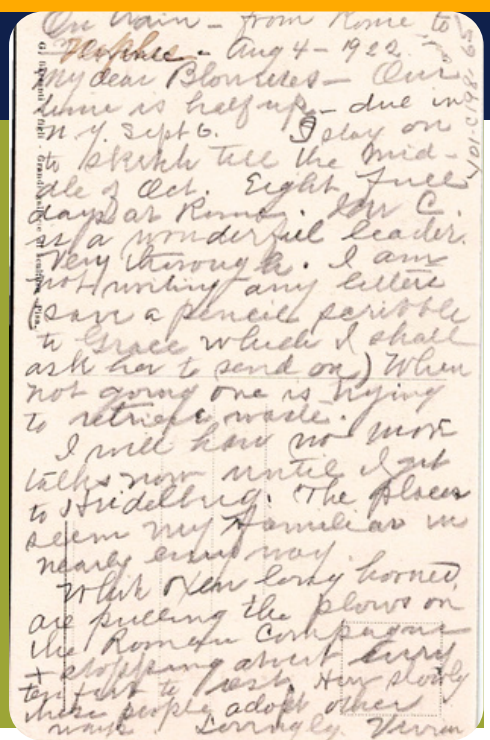
YO1-C198-62, YO1-C198-65

Gift of the Yolo County Historical Society

During the research phase for the Picturing Yolo County exhibition, letters and postcards from artist Calthea Campbell Vivian to the Blowers women: Mary, Carrie, and Annie were uncovered. Mary was the second wife of R. B. Blowers and Carrie and Annie were two of his children. The family grew grapes and olives, among other things, and their property is where the current day fairgrounds are in Woodland. Vivian was a prominent early American Western landscape artist. Though women artists of the American West are often overlooked, there were a few who were in direct competition

with their male counterparts. Calthea Campbell Vivian is one such artist. She was well trained and studied all over the world including at the Crocker Art School in Sacramento and the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art in San Francisco. Vivian eventually sought even more artistic training abroad at the Colorossi Atelier, Grande Chaumiere, and with Charles Lazar in England. When she wasn't off on painting trips to Europe, Vivian spent most of her professional career painting and teaching in Northern California. Her longer letter (YO1-210-03), on display in the current exhibition, is addressed to "My Dearest C" [Carrie Blowers] and describes how sad she was that the Blowers women were not there to see her off when she left. This letter was never sent in the mail which likely means that Vivian left the letter at the Blowers home in Woodland after one of her visits. The Blowers sisters, who were already artistically inclined, were encouraged by Vivian. In this letter, Vivian instructs "C" to "do some

modeling at least--if there is a girls class." She also sent postcards back to the Blowers family when she traveled to Europe on her painting trips. These letters seemed to pick up mid-conversation, for example: in a postcard sent from Italy, Calthea writes "On a train from Rome to Naples-August 1922. My Dear Blowers... Eight free days in Rome. Ms. C is a wonderful leader, very thorough..." Another postcard sent in July of that same year is addressed to "Mrs. and Misses Blowers." It reads, "Had a lovely 3 days with Anna." The familiarity of these postcards and letters suggests a close relationship between the Blowers women and Calthea, who likely encouraged the sisters to continue to hone their artistic skills. For at least 30 years these women were friends and supported each other's artistic careers.



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