

UNITED STATES
SENATE
CATALOGUE OF FINE ART




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By William Kloss
and
Diane K. Skvarla

Foreword by
The Honorable Tom Daschle
and
The Honorable Trent Lott

Introductory Essay by William Kloss

To the surprise of many visitors, the interior of the United States Capitol abounds in magnificent art that rivals its exterior architectural splendor. The fine art held by the U.S. Senate comprises much of this treasured heritage. It spans over 200 years of history and contains works by such celebrated artists as Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Hiram Powers, Daniel Chester French, Charles Willson Peale, Gilbert Stuart, Walker Hancock, and Alexander Calder. The *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art* represents the first comprehensive effort to illustrate and interpret this rich trove of paintings and sculptures.

For the benefit of serious art historians and art enthusiasts in general, this volume provides previously unpublished information on the 160 paintings and sculptures in the U.S. Senate. Each work of art—from portraiture of prominent senators to scenes depicting significant events in U.S. history—is illustrated with a full-page color photograph, accompanied by an essay and secondary images that place the work in historical and aesthetic context.

The Senate's art continues to grow and evolve. Its most recent acquisitions are documented here for the first time. Also featured in this catalogue is the Senate's oldest continuing art collection, the Vice Presidential Bust Collection, which honors those individuals who have served as president of the Senate.

In his introductory essay, art historian and principal author William Kloss provides a comparative perspective on the collection as he discusses the highlights of the Senate's art. Compiled by Senate Curator Diane K. Skvarla, this publication is the definitive new resource on the fine art in the United States Senate.



William Kloss, art historian, curator, and consultant, has taught and lectured for 25 years in seminars and on tours in the United States and abroad for the Smithsonian Institution, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and many fine arts institutions. He is the author of numerous books and catalogue essays, including *Treasures from the National Museum of American Art*; *Treasures of State*; *More than Meets the Eye: The Art of Trompe l'Oeil*; *This Tranquil Land: Hudson River Paintings*; *Samuel F.B. Morse*; *The Figural Images of Theodore Robinson*; *Modern American Realism*; and *Art in the White House: A Nation's Pride*. He has served on the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, a presidential appointment, since 1990.

Diane K. Skvarla has been Senate curator since 1995. She directs the U.S. Senate's museum program, including preservation and restoration projects, and various educational endeavors. She began her career in the office in 1979, first as museum specialist, then as associate curator. She organized the Senate's bicentennial exhibition, "*A Necessary Fence. . . : The Senate's First Century*," and the accompanying publication and poster exhibit, which won awards from the Society for History in the Federal Government and the American Association for State and Local History.

FRONT COVER: (large image) *Eagle and Shield* by unknown artist (ca. 1834); (thumbnails, left to right) *John Adams* by Eliphalet Frazer Andrews (1881); *Besheekee, or Buffalo* by Francis Vincenti (1856); *Hattie Caraway* by John Oliver Buckley (1996); *Henry Wilson* by Daniel Chester French (1885/1886); *George Washington* by Gilbert Stuart (ca. 1796-1798); *Telegraph* by Constantino Brumidi (ca. 1862); *Gerald R. Ford* by Walker Kirtland Hancock (1985); *Henry Clay* by Henry F. Darby (ca. 1858).

BACK COVER: (thumbnails, left to right) *Roger B. Taney* by Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1876/1877); *Justin Morrill* by Jonathan Eastman Johnson (1884); *Blanche Kelso Bruce* by Simmie Knox (2001); *Casimir Pulaski* by Henry Dmochowski Saunders (1857); *West Point, New York* by Seth Eastman (1875); *Lafayette Foster* by Charles Calverley (1879); *Thomas Jefferson* by Thomas Sully (1856); *Charles G. Dawes* by Jo Davidson (1930).

