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## **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art records**

Finding aid created by San Francisco Museum of Modern Art staff using RecordEXPRESS

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 Third Street

San Francisco, California 94103

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<http://www.sfmoma.org/>

2015

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art records

**Dates:** 1960-

**Collection Number:** ARCH.ADM.012

**Creator/Collector:** San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

**Extent:** 16.5 linear feet (16 boxes, 10 cartons)

**Repository:** San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

San Francisco, California 94103

**Abstract:** The Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) was founded in 1961 as an auxiliary of the San Francisco Museum of Art. SECA's objective was to encourage private collectors to purchase contemporary works by local and national artists. SECA's function shifted to awarding prizes to individual artists in 1967 and focused its attention on supporting Bay Area artists exclusively. The records are primarily administrative in nature, pertaining to its organizational management, and that of its awards and educational programs.

**Language of Material:** English

### **Access**

Collection is available for use. Some materials are restricted for confidentiality or condition.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], [box year and folder title], Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art, 1960-Ongoing, Administrative Records, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Archives.

### **Acquisition Information**

Institutional records generated by SFMOMA or collected by SFMOMA staff in the performance of work duties.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection dates from 1961 to the present. It documents SECA's award and programmatic activities and its administrative history through correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, publications, press releases, invitations to events, announcements, press clippings, and other materials.

The SECA records are divided into four series: Organizational, Administrative, Events and Activities, and Awards.

The Organizational files document SECA's Council, Committee and Membership activities. They include official records such as meeting minutes, by-laws, committee meeting reports, membership correspondence, and member rosters.

The Administrative files cover the clerical and managerial aspects of SECA including general correspondence, financial records, fundraising efforts, and general clerical documentation.

The Events and Activities files document the various programs offered to SECA members. They include social gatherings such as member dinners and picnics; as well as lectures, panel discussions with significant collectors, and important art professionals; artists' talks in art galleries and SECA members' homes; national and international travel to visit museums, art galleries, studio visits, and private collections.

The Awards files relate to the procedures and production involved in the organization and implementation of SECA's art, film, and other awards. The awards honor local artists of exceptional promise with an exhibition at the museum. The process involves soliciting artist recommendations, slide reviews, studio visits, and selection voting.

Award recipients have included Bonnie Sherk, Squeak Carnwath, Michael Naimark, Barry McGee, Rigo '98, Kathryn Van Dyke, John Bankston, and Rosana Castrillo Diaz.

### **Indexing Terms**

Art—Collectors and collecting

Art, Modern—20th century—Exhibitions

Art, Modern—20th century—Study and teaching—California—San Francisco

Art museums and community—California—San Francisco

Art museums—Collection management

Art museums—Educational aspects

San Francisco Museum of Art

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

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San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—Archives  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—Board of Trustees  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—History—Sources  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—Records and correspondence  
Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art  
SECA

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