



TITLE: Katherine Kitt collection

DATE RANGE: 1895-1898 and undated

CALL NUMBER: PC 296

LOCATION: Arizona History Museum, 949 E Second St, Tucson, AZ 85719

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear ft (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Katherine Kitt estate in 1976 and 1986.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives.

PREFERRED CITATION: Arizona Historical Society, Katherine Kitt collection, PC 296

PROCESSED BY: Tory Bellavance in December 2018.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Katherine Florence Daniels Kitt (1879-1945) was born in Chico, California and, at age 21, migrated to Tucson in the 1890s. She took an art teaching position at Safford School in downtown Tucson and shortly thereafter, married William R. Kitt (1871-1933).

In 1911, Kitt earned her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Arizona and took a position as a lecturer of art in 1924. During this year, she organized the university's first art exhibition. She quickly rose in rank at the university, becoming an instructor in art and design and an Associate Professor of art in the following years. In 1928 she earned her Masters degree and founded the UA Art Department, making art education distinct from home economics. She became the first head of the arts department and held the position for 17 years until her retirement in 1945.

During her 21 years teaching at the University of Arizona, Kitt has inspired generations of students interested in the arts, among them, architect Gordon M. Luepke and artist Ted deGrazia. She not only distinguished herself as an outstanding instructor of fine arts, but also as an extremely talented artist in her own right, traveling across Europe and the Americas to hone her craft. During her life, Kitt was instrumental in fostering a widespread appreciation for southwestern art and enriched the cultural life of the University of Arizona and Tucson as a whole. She passed away in May of 1945, a month after her retirement.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection contains photographs of Katherine Kitt's paintings, as well as photographs that depict her painting process, including photos of models and class sessions. Also included are images of the Kitt Home at 319 S 4th Ave, which are primarily detailed shots of the exterior and views of the interior of Katherine Kitt's studio. Portraits in the collection are mainly of Katherine Kitt with various unidentified individuals. William R. Kitt is depicted as well. Harry A. Drachman, Mercedes Shibell, Otis Hale, Millie Brown, Anna Taylor and George Kitt are also pictured. The collection contains a large number of photographs of unidentified people and places. Photographs of people are primarily group portraits and unidentified places consist of landscapes and buildings. Lastly, photographs of William R. and Katherine Kitt's dog, Whiskers, and cat are also held within the collection.

SUBJECT TERMS: University of Arizona -- Art Department; Artists -- Arizona

RELATED MATERIALS: Portraits-Kitt, Katherine Florence Daniels (Mrs. William Roskruge); Places-Arizona-Tucson-homes-Kitt, Katherine [ephemera file]

CONTAINER LIST:

| Box | Folder | Description | Dates |
|------------|---------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | 1 | Art and Art Classes | Undated |
| | 2 | Kitt Home | Undated |
| | 3 | Portraits of William and Katherine Kitt | 1895-1898 |
| | 4 | Unidentified People | Undated |
| | 5 | Unidentified Places | Undated |
| | 6 | Whiskers (the Kitts' Dog) | Undated |