

**The New York Public Library  
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**United Scenic Artists Exam Designs  
1938-1942 and undated**

**\*T-VIM 2011-256**

## Summary

**Title:** United Scenic Artists Exam Designs, 1938-1942 and undated

**Size:** 2 linear feet (2 boxes )

**Preferred citation:** United Scenic Artists Exam Designs, \*T-VIM 2011-256, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

## **Historical note**

United Scenic Artists (now Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees,) is a labor union and professional association of designers, artists and craftspeople. Founded in 1897 as the United Scenic Artists Association, it was organized to protect craft standards, working conditions and wages for the entertainment and decorative arts industries. United Scenic Artists' members must pass rigorous entrance examinations and work in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials and exhibitions.

## **Scope and content note**

The collection includes ca. 63 original color and black and white set and costume designs, submitted by designers as membership requirements for United Scenic Artists. The designs were possibly graded and/or donated by noted designer and teacher Woodman Thompson, who served in several capacities for United Scenic Artists over the years. Designers include Peter Arno, Lemuel Ayers, Alvin Colt, Mstislav Dobujinsky, Jean Eckart, Leo Kerz, Charles Lisanby, Oliver Messel, Isamu Noguchi, Lester Polakov, Richard Sylbert, Rouben Ter-Arutunian, Jac Venza, and others; there are also several designs with illegible signatures.

Of particular note is Vincente Minnelli's exam (containing pencil sketches and a brief questionnaire). Several designs have "WT" (possibly Woodman Thompson's initials) written on them. A number of the designs are on, or are attached to, exam sheets.

**Container list**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Ankers, Kathleen (Includes color set design.)
1	2	Arno, Peter Includes pencil sketches of costumes for <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> .
1	3	Ayers, Lemuel (Includes color set design.)
1	4	Barnes, Paul (Includes color set design.)
1	5	Baronoff, Michael, 1938 Includes 2 set designs (1 on page of exam), with notes initialed "W.T."
1	6	Brenner, Al (Includes color set design.)
1	7	Cagli, Corrado (Includes pencil set design.)
1	8	Carroll, Bil [sic] Includes 2 color costume designs for <i>Hamlet</i> .
1	9	Ceil, William (Includes color costume design of female, 1874.)
1	10	Cissel, William Howard (Includes color costume design.)
1	11	Cocuzza Includes 2 color costume designs of Camille and Armand.
1	12	Cole (Includes color set design.)
1	13	Colt, Alvin (Includes 2 color set and costume designs.)
1	14	Corso, Mike Includes pencil set design on page of exam booklet.
1	15	Dicran, Sahi (Includes color costume design for a dancer.)
1	16	Dobujinsky, Mstislav V. (Includes color set design.)
1	17	Eberhardt, John H. (Includes color costume design.)
1	18	Eckart, Jean (Includes 2 color set and costume designs.)
1	19	French, Clarissa Messer (Includes 2 color set and costume designs.)
1	20	Gorecka-Egan, Erica Includes color costume design of Hamlet in <i>Hamlet</i> .
1	21	Jewett, Tom Includes color costume design of Charles VI, France.
1	22	Jita Includes color costume design of woman dancer in <i>Prince Igor</i> .
1	23	Keogh, Tom Includes 3 color costume designs: Loveburg [sic] and Hedda Gabler - <i>Hedda Gabler</i> , and Indian dancer.
2	3	Kerz, Leo Includes 2 color set designs (1 mounted and matted; top part of mat is not attached to design; bottom right corner torn off).
1	24	Klein, R.L. Includes color set design for <i>Peer Gynt</i> , Act I, Scene 2.
1	25	Koenig, 1938 (Includes color set design.)
1	26	Larkin, P[eter] (Includes color set design.)
1	27	Lebrun, Rico Includes color costume design for Capitan Fracassa.
1	28	Lisanby, Charles Includes color costume design for Grenadier - French - Napoleon's Army.
1	29	Messel, Oliver (Includes 2 color set and costume designs.)
1	30	Minnelli, Vincente Includes "Designers [sic] Questionnaire" (5 sheets) containing pencil sketches and several questions; "Passed - 76" on first page.
1	31	Noffke, William (Includes color set design.)
1	32	Noguchi, Isamu Includes color set design and costume design of "Genroku" period (female court figure).

- 1 33 Polakov, Lester  
Includes 2 set designs (1 color; 1 pencil) with male figure.
- 1 34 Roth, Wolfgang (Includes color set design.)
- 2 2 Schrapps (Includes color costume sketch.)
- 1 35 Schwartz, Bert  
Includes color costume design of man - Louis XV court.
- 1 36 Seligmann (Includes color set design.)
- 1 37 Sharfin, M.J. (Includes color set design.)
- 1 38 Swados, Kim  
Includes color set design and costume design of female in Victorian costume, 1890.
- 1 39 Sylbert, Richard (Includes color costume design of male clown.)
- 1 40 Ter-Arutunian, Rouben (Includes color set design on exam page.)
- 1 41 VENZA, Jac  
Includes color set design and costume design of ball dress, ca. 1830.
- 2 1 Walstrom, William  
Includes color costume design - "Courtier - Sketch for a Ballet of *The Sleeping Beauty*."
- 1 42 Whorf, Richard, 1938  
Includes 2 pencil costume sketches on exam page - Hamlet, The Queen.
- 1 43 Winters, Larry  
Includes 2 color set and costume designs on exam pages.
- 1 44 Signatures Illegible, 1942 and undated  
Includes 2 color set designs and 1 color costume design of "Elizabethan Court Lady."