

“Women at Work”
sculpture series titles

Tired Feet*
Drying Dishes*
Girl Churning*
Tiny
Woman Washing Clothes*
Little Lamb*
Girl Treading Grapes*
Kneeling Woman Picking Potatoes*
Girl Planting with Trowel*
Harvest*
De Profundis
Abraham & Isaac
Seated Girl
Seated Nude Girl
Kneeling Woman with Bucket*

* identifies the “Women at Work” series



Marion Sanford creating her bronze sculpture entitled Kneeling Woman with Bucket as Cornelia Chapin poses in the background.

Marion Sanford Exhibits

National Academy of Design, New York
National Association of Women Artists, New York
Architectural League, New York
Arden Galleries, New York
Allied Artists of America, New York
Whitney Museum of Art, New York
American Artists Professional League, New York
Pen and Brush, New York
New York World’s Fair, New York
Ferragil Gallery, New York
Grand Central Art Gallery, New York
Bonestell Gallery—One Man Show, New York
Meriden, Connecticut
Kent, Connecticut
Chautauqua, New York
Springfield, Massachusetts
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Rockport Art Assoc., Maine
Newport, Rhode Island

Marion Sanford Memberships

Fellow of National Sculpture Society
National Association of Women Artists
Audubon Artists
Allied Artists of America
Architectural League
National Academy of Design — A.N.A. 1944
Full Member N.A. 1963
American Artists Professional League
Pen and Brush
Grand Central Art Galleries
Cosmopolitan Club of New York

Marion Sanford Award Recipient

Guggenheim Fellowship 1941—1942
Guggenheim Fellowship 1942—1943
Ann Hyatt Huntington Prize
Elizabeth N. Watrous—Gold Medal
Allied Artists of America—Gold Medal
American Artists of America
Pen and Brush—Medal
National Academy Sculpture Award
Springfield Museum
Kent, Connecticut
Royal Academy of London—Certificate of Merit

**Marion Sanford
Sculpture Series
“Women At Work”
Crary Art Gallery
511 Market Street
Warren, Pennsylvania 16365**



Marion Sanford Sleeman
1917 Warren High School Dragon photo

Courtesy of the
Warren County Historical Society
210 Fourth Avenue
Warren, Pennsylvania 16365

Marion Sanford Sleeman was born in Guelph, Ontario, Canada on February 9, 1897. In her younger years, Marion's family moved about the country before purchasing a farm on "Bunker Hill" in Warren, Pennsylvania. Marion graduated from Warren High School in 1917 before attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where she studied drawing and painting. After graduating from Pratt Institute in 1921, Sanford returned to Warren and was procured by the Trinity Memorial Church, along with fellow Pratt student Gene Walker (who later married Clare Crary), to stencil the church's walls and ceiling. It was during this time, she provided art lessons for Quinn Smith and a life-long friendship began, as Marion and Quinn spent Saturdays together in a small cottage studio, formerly a chicken coop, on Marion's parent's farm. Marion called the studio "Steppingstone" because of the stone steps that led up the hill to the barn. Thirty years later, the name of Marion Sanford's chicken coop studio would become the inspiration for the Warren County Historical Society's publication, *Stepping Stones*.

Marion preferred the name Tommy Sanford and was outspoken and independent. She expressed her opinion in few words, had a great sense of humor, was well-liked and small in physique, had dark hair and eyes, and had somewhat of a deformed shoulder due to the physical demands of her sculpting.

Marion Sanford, having negated Sleeman from her formal name, returned to New York to study with noted sculptors Robert Laurent and Leo Lentelli at the Art Students' League. From 1937 to 1943, Marion apprenticed for Brenda Putnam, author of *The Sculptor's Way*, for which Marion executed the illustration for the publication.

As a result of the 1929 Stock Market Crash in 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal instituted programs to preserve the country's culture by commissioning works of art for federal buildings. Marion Sanford was commissioned to create the plaster bas relief, entitled *Weighing Cotton* for the post office located in Winder, Georgia. After hanging in the post office for 40

years, the art piece eventually made its way to an exhibit room in the Barrow County Museum and can be seen there today.

The Sanford sculptures displayed at the Crary Art Gallery were created by Marion in her New York studio. On April 20, 1947, Marion Sanford was featured in an article entitled *Sculptress Glorifies Women at Work* published in the *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. In this article, Marion demonstrates her use of Cornelia Chapin, long-time partner and fellow sculptress, as a model for her "Women at Work" sculptures series. Marion admired the every day chores of women working on the farm and more specifically, their dedication and joy in caring for their families.

In 1979, Marion Sanford moved to Sussex, England, and donated her "Women at Work" sculptures to the Warren County Historical Society. The Historical Society exhibited the sculptures at the C. W. Stone Museum, located at 710 Pennsylvania Avenue West, Warren, until 1996 when the museum closed. Soon after, under the guidance of Quinn Smith, the Crary Art Gallery was conveyed the opportunity to house and display the Sanford sculptures. In 1997, the Crary Art Gallery and the Warren County Historical Society agreed to a permanent loan and continue to ensure the preservation and longevity of Marion Sanford's sculptures.

Marion Sanford passed away in 1987. She is buried in a churchyard in the village of East Dean, West Sussex, England, on a cliff overlooking the sea.



Marion Sanford in her New York studio—1947