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Hildreth Meiere: Master of Art Deco - Ephemera

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Spring 2019

## Hildreth Meière: The Art of Commerce Intro Panel

Fairfield University Art Museum

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# HILDRETH MEIÈRE

## The Art of Commerce



Hildreth Meière (American, 1892-1961) was a prolific muralist whose commissioned works adorn the walls and ceilings of public buildings from New York to California. Born in New York, Meière first studied art in Florence, Italy, where she discovered the frescoes and mosaics that were to inform her craft. Continuing her studies in New York, California, and Chicago, she also traveled to Europe during the summers, where she was introduced to *les arts decoratifs*, later to be known as Art Deco, of which she became an early American exponent.

Meière found her muse in monumental buildings; their domes, ceilings, walls, windows, and floors were her canvas. A master of scale, she is best known for conceiving murals and mosaics of arresting beauty, combining glittering hues and flowing forms.

*Hildreth Meière: The Art of Commerce* highlights corporate commissions in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut and includes paintings, wall sculptures, preparatory drawings, cartoons, and gouache sketches, as well as photographs of finished commissions. A versatile artist whose commissions were executed in glass and marble mosaic, tile, terra cotta, tapestry, leather, wood, and metal, Meière understood that her success was in large part due to the positive relationships she forged with corporate clients, architects, and the talented craftsmen who executed her works.

On display in the rear gallery are the full-size cartoons for the mosaic in the lobby of the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, CT as well as studies for and fragments from the mosaics originally executed for the lobby of the Prudential Insurance Company in Newark, New Jersey.

*Hildreth Meière: The Art of Commerce* was organized by Carey Mack Weber, Executive Director, in collaboration with the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University and the International Hildreth Meière Association.

This exhibition was made possible with the generous support of the Ruth McC Dayton Foundation and the Eichholz Foundation.

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