

Burt W. Johnson and the Fine Arts Building of Los Angeles

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Claremont Heritage, Thursday, November 2nd

The Ginger Elliott Center, Garner House



Claremont sculptor Burt W. Johnson's largest commission was for the Los Angeles Fine Arts Building (1926), a structure celebrating the flourishing culture and economy of Los Angeles in the 1920s. The story of Johnson's beautiful interior fountain bronzes (for which his children posed) and heroic exterior allegorical figures will be presented through archival photos and letters. The lavish addition of Batchelder tilework, Gladding, McBean terra cotta

ornamentation, and other décor further illustrate the uniqueness of this building, originally designed for artists' studios and businesses.

This talk is derived from Schwarz's book proposal *The Fine Arts Building: "The Most Beautiful Building in Los Angeles"*.

Priscilla Schwarz, granddaughter of Johnson, is a Teaching Assistant Professor of Art History at Oklahoma State University. Her research is devoted to the sculpture of Burt W. Johnson, Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens, and Louis St. Gaudens. Contact: priscilla.schwarz@okstate.edu

