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A New Deal for American Art in Federal Buildings

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Agnes Tait (1894 - 1981) Skating in Central Park, 1934, oil on canvas, 33 7/8 x 48 1/8 inch

Transferred from U.S. Department of Labor to the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

A New Deal for American Art in Federal Buildings

Work Projects Administration

Golden Anniversary

Great governments throughout history have embraced the art of their time. The United States Government is no exception, beginning as far back as 1855, when the U.S. Congress commissioned Constantino Brumidi to paint frescoes for the Capitol Building. During the depths of the Great Depression, the Federal Government continued that tradition by employing thousands of artists to create public art which expressed the ideals of their time.