

“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 physic, 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*