

George Washington HS, San Francisco – Murals (courtesy of Jack Rhine)



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_High_School_%28San_Francisco%29

The lobby is decorated with murals by Victor Arnautoff in the "buon fresco" styles. They depict scenes from the life and times of George Washington.







Victor Arnautoff's fresco entitled "Life of Washington" consists of twelve panels and totals 1600 square feet. It was produced with the assistance of FAP funds.

<http://www.outsidelands.org/washington.php>

Over 1,300 square feet of murals, scenes depicting phases in the life of George Washington, cover the walls of the lobby. Victor Arnautoff, painter of these murals, did much research before starting the work to get the color and feeling of George Washington and the days in which he lived.

The murals are done in what the artists call earth colors, which are made from oxides. For instance, green is made from chrome, red from iron, and black from coal. The base of murals is lime, a very ancient method mural work.

George Harris and Gordon Langdon were the artists who assisted Mr. Arnautoff. Since murals have to be painted on a wet surface, Mr. Arnautoff had to follow right behind the plasterers, and a scene, once begun, had to be completed that same day, in order that the walls did not dry. Carpenters and plasterers worked all around the building, while Mr. Arnautoff was above on a scaffold. He suffered from drafts in all directions, for doors had not yet been built.

The artist was so rushed for time that he had to improvise as he was painting. Covering about nine feet of wall a day, he sometimes worked from ten to twelve hours a day to finish a given section. The murals took ten months to complete; ironically, the school was not opened until a full year later.



Ralph Stackpole's 5'6" x 27' fresco "Contemporary Education" in the Washington High School library was completed in 1936 with FAP funds.

<http://livingnewdeal.org/locations/george-washington-high-school-san-francisco-ca/>

West side of the library – includes vocational subjects taught at the school.



This 5'6" x 27' fresco mural "Advancement of Learning Through the Printing Press" by Lucien Labaudt was completed in 1936 with funding from the WPA Federal Art Project.

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East side of the library – shows the academic subjects taught at the school.





This 4' x 10' fresco mural "Modern and Ancient Science" by Gordon Langdon depicts the physicist Robert A. Milliken. It is located near the entrance to the library at Washington High School.

<http://www.artandarchitecture-sf.com/washington-high-school-and-the-wpa.html>



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/441423200949139089/>

Advancement of Learning Through the Printing Press; Lucien Adolphe Labaudt (1936); A WPA mural depicting the printing press and its inventor, Gutenberg, surrounded by historical men of science, literature, and religion to symbolize the continuity of knowledge made possible through the printed word. Location: George Washington High School, San Francisco, California.



The three figures over the door were sculpted by Victor Arnautoff. Edison (invention), Washington (statesman), Shakespeare (literature).

<https://youtu.be/minubBnGb6w> (Uploaded on May 3, 2010)

Mural Restoration at Geo. Washington H.S.

Ericka Lovlin, principal

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/minubBnGb6w" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>



Dewey Crumpler's "Multi-Ethnic Heritage" (1974), 3 panels located in the lobby.



[Posted by Carol Malcolm on Facebook]
Ralph Stackpole's 5'6" x 27' fresco "Contemporary Education" in the Washington High School library was completed in 1936 with FAP funds.

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Chronicle / Michael Macor