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ENCORE FOR A MURALIST

Hildreth Meière, an Art Deco mosaic designer and muralist for buildings as prominent as Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan and the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, largely faded from the limelight after her death from leukemia in 1961. In 2009 the first Meière museum retrospective opened at St. Bonaventure University, near Olean in western New York State, and a version of the show, expanded with new discoveries, opens on Saturday at the National Building Museum in Washington.

Two years ago a box of drawings by Meière (pronounced mee-AIR), up to 10 feet long and depicting 1930s mosaic spider webs at 1 Wall Street in Lower Manhattan, turned up in the archives of the New York architecture firm HLW International. Three have been added to the 2009 show, along with tools used to install her mosaics.

Meière's daughter, Louise Meière Dunn, and granddaughter, Hildreth Meière Dunn, run a Web site, hildrethmeiere.com, and are collaborating with scholars on a monograph about the artist. They track Meière artifacts needing conservation, including a rolled-up portrait of a saint at a suburban New York school and a New Jersey insurance company's mosaic of Mediterranean landscapes.

The Dunns live in the artist's 1940s house in Stamford, Conn., and have found forgotten documents there. Sketches of Rockefeller Center reliefs were rolled up in plans for elephant murals, and correspondence about World War II portable altarpieces was stashed in a trunk. As each paperwork batch surfaces, Hildreth Dunn said, they are donating it to the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art.

By EVE M. KAHN