

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS AND DANCE

PUTTING KATHERINE DREIER INTO PERSPECTIVE: MODERN ART
COLLECTING IN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY AMERICA

By

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A Thesis submitted to the
Department of Art History
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Art

Degree Awarded:
Fall Semester, 2005

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Karen Bearor for her guidance throughout the writing of this thesis. Her transatlantic correspondence was especially helpful. Next, I would like to extend my appreciation to the other members of my committee, Tatiana Flores and Susan Lee. Their thoughtful comments added greatly to the understanding of my thesis. Finally, I would like to thank the faculty, staff, and my fellow students in the Art History Department in the School of Visual Arts and Dance at Florida State University for their continued support and good humor.

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ABSTRACT

Katherine Dreier was an artist, patron, and art collector during the first half of the twentieth century. This thesis explores Dreier's role as a collector of modern art in the Société Anonyme and situates her in context with her fellow collecting contemporaries. First, I will provide a brief history of art collecting in the United States, from the 1870s until the early twentieth century. Next, introduce Dreier as a collector, citing specific biographical events that contributed to her development as a collector. Then I will compare and contrast the collecting practices of Alfred Barr Jr., Hilla Rebay, and John Quinn with that of Dreier to show how each contributed to the cause of modern art. Also included in this discussion will be an exploration of the personal and professional relationships of each collector to Dreier. Finally I will discuss what happened to Dreier's collection after her death and how it has impacted modern art as we know it today.