

SHONNARD CHAIR

This chair is adapted from one given to the Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum by the estate of late Santa Fe sculptor Eugenie Shonnard. Shonnard was a well-traveled, adventurous woman born and raised in New York. She studied at the New York School of Applied Design for Women under Alfonse Mucha, the Czechoslovakian artist who popularized Art Nouveau style, as well as in Paris with sculptor August Rodin. During her stay in Paris, she traveled widely throughout Europe. The original 18th-century Spanish chair likely was purchased on one of her trips.

Shonnard moved to Santa Fe in 1925. Like so many of Santa Fe's early residents, she was enthralled by the powerful landscape, diverse cultures and art forms indigenous to New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley. Her art became internationally renowned for capturing the unique qualities of Santa Fe and the Southwest. Upon her death, the entire contents of Shonnard's estate was given to the Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum, in Santa Fe.

SCULPTOR EUGENIE SHONNARD AT WORK, 1930

