

H. Wunderlich & Company

Active Dates: approximately 1874-2005

Gallerist(s): Hermann Wunderlich (active in gallery between 1874-1892)
Edward G. Kennedy (active in gallery between 1887-1916)

Locations:¹

1884	John Street, Lower Manhattan, New York
1883	808 Broadway, New York
1966	East 56th Street, New York
1974	West 57th Street, New York
1994	730 Fifth Ave, New York

Specialty: They began selling Old Master prints, but transitioned to selling popular prints, American art, and James McNeill Whistler's works.

Gallery History

Having immigrated to the United States from Württemberg, Germany, Hermann Wunderlich was the head of prints at the New York branch of the Goupil Gallery before opening his H. Wunderlich & Company in 1874, later joined by Edward G. Kennedy.² Their gallery mainly dealt with Old Master prints at its start but transitioned into selling popular prints and contemporary American art.³ Putting on exhibitions in his gallery for artists like Henry Farrer and Julian Weir,⁴ the gallery developed a formidable reputation in New York City. The most notable relationship they possessed was with the renowned James McNeill Whistler, for whom they hosted an exhibition of Whistler's Venetian prints show entitled "Arrangement in White & Yellow,"⁵ and his first painting exhibition in the United States, "Notes" – "Harmonies" – "Nocturnes" in 1889.⁶ This painting exhibition wowed American audiences with its monochromatic use of pinks and dramatic Whistlerian curation and similarly included what

¹All names, locations, and active dates from: "Kennedy Galleries to Close, Will Go On as Private Entity." <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/kennedy-galleries-to-close-will-go-on-as-private-entity-2068/>.

²"The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler: H. Wunderlich & Company," University of Glasgow," Accessed April 6, 2020. https://www.whistler.arts.gla.ac.uk/correspondence/biog/display/?bid=Wund_H. (citation for petri section coming soon)

³"H. Wunderlich & Company/Kennedy & Company Stock Books, 1879-1915," Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, www.aaa.si.edu/collections/h-wunderlich--companykennedy--company-stock-books-10382.

⁴"Wunderlich, Gerold & Co." Antiques & Fine Art - Wunderlich, Gerold & Co. - Inventory, www.antiquesandfineart.com/dealers/inventory.cfm?id=2483.

⁵"The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler: H. Wunderlich & Company."

⁶Grischka Petri, *Arrangement in Business the Art Markets and the Career of James McNeill Whistler* (Hildesheim: Olms, 2011), 465.

would later be known as arguably Whistler's most controversial work, *Nocturne in Black and Gold – The Falling Rocket*.⁷ Wunderlich and Kennedy would continue to exhibit Whistler's art in the United States, as the gallery was the main American contact for the artist.⁸ Whistler's relationship with various members of H. Wunderlich & Company made Wunderlich one of the biggest dealers of Whistler's works in the United States for elite American families across the country. After Wunderlich died at a young age in 1893, his partner Edward G. Kennedy took full control of the gallery and changed its name to Kennedy & Company by 1912, and to the Kennedy Galleries by 1952.⁹ Wunderlich and Kennedy's descendants, including the famous American dealer Rudolf Gerold Wunderlich.¹⁰ Lawrence Fleischman came on to the team in 1966, after which his daughter Martha J. Fleishman continued working with the gallery through to 2005, after which the Kennedy Galleries transitioned into an art consulting firm.¹¹

Illustrations

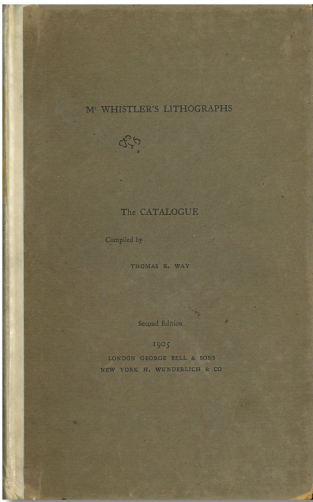


Figure 1. “London & New York: George Bell & Sons / Wunderlich & Co.,” 1905. Octavo. Parchment and printed boards.¹²

⁷ “The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler: H. Wunderlich & Company.”

⁸ “The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler: H. Wunderlich & Company.”

⁹ “Kennedy Galleries to Close, Will Go On as Private Entity.”

¹⁰ “Kennedy Galleries to Close, Will Go On as Private Entity.”

¹¹ “Kennedy Galleries to Close, Will Go On as Private Entity.”

¹² “London & New York: George Bell & Sons / Wunderlich & Co., 1905, Octavo, Parchment and printed boards,” William Reese Company, online.



Figure 2. James Abbott McNeill Whistler, *Little Venice from Venice*, 1880, Etching.¹³

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Author's Initials: CC

Primary Sources

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¹³ “James Abbott McNeill Whistler: *Little Venice from Venice*: Twelve Etchings (First Venice Set) (1880),” Artsy, May 2019, online.

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