

2018

## COLLECTION 0064: Collection of Sr. Claire, SMMI Biblical Art, 1980-2003

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**Collection 64: Collection of Sr. Claire, SMMI Biblical Art,  
1980-2003**

**Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Collection of Sr. Claire, SMMI Biblical Art, 1980-2003

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT00064

**Creators:**

Claire, Sr.

**Size:**

2 stacks of posters/paintings

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N Oakland Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91182  
archives@fuller.edu

**Provenance:**

Unknown

**Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:**

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

**Language:**

English

**Processing:**

Unknown

**Finding Aid Revisions:**

Andrew Wong, June 2018

## Biography

A pioneer in Indian Christian art, Sr. Claire SMMI was the second of nine children born to a family from Andhra Pradesh. She was drawn to the quiet prayer disciplines of her Grandmother, a devout Hindu. When she played with Christian children of the neighborhood, her mother would purify her with a jug of water poured over her head; Christians ate meat from the cows Sr. Clare's family considered as goddesses. While in grade school she heard of the Buddha and wanted to be holy and dedicated to God just as he had been. Her attraction to the holy life continued as she entered a secondary school run by Christian Sisters. There she developed a love for Jesus Christ which alarmed her parents. They tried to exorcise this love in many ways, including marriage plans, but Sr. Claire ran away, taking refuge in a convent. There she entered the Novitiate and was given sixth and seventh grade classes to teach. When illness made teaching impossible, her painting began. Seeing her talent for this work, the Mother Superior of the convent sent her to art school where she excelled. Her art was admired as "true Indian art" and she was glad to use it "to introduce others to the inspiring thoughts that proceed from Indian spirituality." She felt that this was her way of helping others to find God's presence within them. Her purpose in painting and in life is to introduce others to the God who stretches out his arms in love to raise us up to Himself. She paints in solitude and silence, sensing God's presence within; a form of prayer and her chosen way of communicating the sure knowledge of God's love for humankind. (From *Prayer in Culture: meditating with the paintings of Sr. Claire SMMI* by Antony Kolencherry).

## Scope of Content

This is a collection of Biblical Posters done in an Indian style, the work of Sister Claire, SMMI. The collection contains prints marked Series 1, 1-140, printed in Bangalore: N.B.C.L.C.

### Subjects:

Art and religion  
Christian art and symbolism -- India -- Modern period, 1500-  
India

## Arrangement

This collection is organized into 2 stacks of posters/paintings.