



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Herbert Aach Papers,
1942-1988, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald and Eden Orelove

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Herbert Aach papers
Identifier:	AAA.aachherb
Date:	1942-1988
Extent:	2.4 linear feet
Creator:	Aach, Herbert, 1923-1985
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of New York painter, art instructor and writer Herbert Aach (1923-1985) measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1988. Papers include biographical materials, correspondence, scattered financial and legal records, notes and writings, subject files, a scrapbook, printed materials, photographs, and one videocassette.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Herbert and Doris Aach donated the papers to the Archives of American Art in 1984 and 1989.

Processing Information

The collection was arranged and cataloged by Jean Fitzgerald in 1991. The finding aid was created by Eden Orelove in 2011.

Preferred Citation

Herbert Aach papers, 1942-1988. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use

The Herbert Aach papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical

Painter, art instructor and writer Herbert Aach (1923-1985) worked primarily in New York City. Born in Cologne, Germany, Aach came to the United States in 1939. He taught at the Brooklyn Museum School (1947-1951), Pratt Institute (1966-1969), and at Queens College (1966-1985). In 1971 he was editor and translator of *Goethe's Color Theory*. Aach was president of the Artists Technical Research Institute, which was founded in 1959 by Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer to conduct scientific and educational research of materials and methods used in the visual arts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York painter, art instructor and writer Herbert Aach (1923-1985) measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1988. Papers include biographical materials, correspondence, scattered financial and legal records, notes and writings, subject files, a scrapbook, printed materials, photographs, and one videocassette.

Legal records include materials relating to a lawsuit against Larry Rivers for a lease termination. Letters are from colleagues including Emily Genauer and Edwin W. Zoller regarding exhibitions and other art-related matters and brief letters from Elaine DeKooning, John Ferren, Adolph Gottlieb, and Rufino Tamayo. Subject files are found for many organizations of which Aach was a member, including the American Society for Testing and Materials, the Artists Technical Research Institute, and the Inter-Society Color Council. Printed materials include one scrapbook, clippings, and exhibition catalogs. There is documentation of Aach's work translating and editing *Goethe's Color Theory*, one 55 minute videocassette entitled *Herbert Aach* by Albright Knox Gallery, and photographs of Aach and his artwork.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series. Records are generally arranged by material type and chronologically thereafter.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1985 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1949-1988 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Financial Material, 1964-1981 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 4: Legal Records, 1951-1986 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Notes, 1961-1984 (Box 1; 6 folders)
- Series 6: Writings, 1950-1985 (Boxes 1-2; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 7: Subject Files, 1942-1984 (Box 2; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, 1952-1960 (Box 2; 3 folders)
- Series 9: Scrapbook, 1951-1958 (Box 2; 1 folder)
- Series 8: Printed Material, 1948-1988 (Boxes 2-3; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 8: Videocassette, 25 April 1975 (Box 3; 1 folder)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York
Artists' materials
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Video recordings

Names:

American Society for Testing and Materials
Artist's Technical Research Institute
De Kooning, Elaine
Ferren, John, 1905-1970
Genauer, Emily, 1910-2002
Inter-Society Color Council
Rivers, Larry, 1925-2002
Tamayo, Rufino, 1899-
Zoller, Edwin W., 1900-1967

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1985

1 folder (Box 1)

Biographical materials include a resume, exhibition records and three biographical essays about Aach.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Material, 1985, undated

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1949-1988

0.6 linear feet (Box 1)

Correspondence is primarily between Aach and various art suppliers and chemical analysis laboratories concerning the technical standards for artists' materials. Also included are letters from colleagues including Emily Genauer and Edwin W. Zoller regarding exhibitions and other art-related matters and brief letters from Elaine DeKooning, John Ferren, Adolph Gottlieb, and Rufino Tamayo agreeing to write recommendations for Aach.

Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 3-29	Correspondence, 1949-1988 <i>27 folders</i>

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Series 3: Financial Material, 1964-1981

1 folder (Box 1)

Financial material includes a grant proposal to study the serialization and color programming of Gothic rose windows, a price list for fluorochemical additives, and four invoices for the sale of paintings and for supplies.

Box 1, Folder 30

Financial Records, 1964-1981

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Series 4: Legal Records, 1951-1986

0.2 linear feet (Box 1)

Legal records include two contracts with the Creative Gallery, consignment agreements, and material relating to a law suit against Larry Rivers concerning the termination of Aach's lease on his studio.

Box 1, Folder 31	Contracts with Creative Gallery and Consignment Agreements, 1951-1978
Box 1, Folder 32-34	Loft Lease, Aach v. Rivers, 1980-1981 <i>3 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 35-37	Transcript of examination before trial, Aach v. Rivers, 1984 <i>3 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 38	Loft Lease, Aach v. Rivers, 1984-1986

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Series 5: Notes, 1961-1984

6 folders (Box 1)

Notes include technical data on paint, exhibition guest registers, and a notebook with outlines for classes taught at Queen's College.

Box 1, Folder 39	Notebook for Color, Design Class, undated
Box 1, Folder 40	Queens College Notebook, circa 1968-1984
Box 1, Folder 41	Color Course at Queens College, 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 42	Data on Paint, 1961
Box 1, Folder 43	Exhibition Guest Registers, 1964-1968
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Miscellaneous Notes, undated <i>2 folders</i>

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Series 6: Writings, 1950-1985

0.2 linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Writings include texts for lectures, miscellaneous writings by Aach on art techniques and materials, evaluations by students, Gail O'Brien's master's thesis entitled "The Painter's Approach Toward Serialization in Modern Painting", and information about printmaking by Jack Stewart.

Box 1, Folder 46	Lecture Notes, undated, 1968
Box 1, Folder 47	Evaluations by Students, 1981-1985
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Miscellaneous Writings, undated <i>3 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 4-7	Miscellaneous Writings, 1950-1981 <i>4 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 8	Printmaking Information by Jack Stewart, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Masters Thesis: The Painter's Approach toward Serialization in Modern Painting by Gail O'Brien, 1978

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Series 7: Subject Files, 1942-1984

0.6 linear feet (Box 2)

Subject files contain letters, notes, and printed material concerning the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Artists Technical Research Institute, Inc. (ATRI), the Color Forum, the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), the Inter-Society Color Council (ISCC), New York Bridges, and the "Structure of Color" exhibition at the Whitney Museum. Also included is the book *Goethe's Color Theory*, which is translated and edited by Aach. The ATRI file contains correspondence between Ralph and Bena Frank Mayer, Ralston Crawford, Rutherford J. Gettens, and others concerning the establishment of ATRI, a copy of the by-laws, technical reports, and minutes of meetings.

Box 2, Folder 10-14	American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Subcommittee D01.57, 1977- 1982 <i>5 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 15	By-Laws of ATRI Inc. / Certificate of Incorporation of ATRI Inc., 1959
Box 2, Folder 16	Minutes of ATRI Meetings, 1960-1978
Box 2, Folder 17	Clippings and Articles Regarding Artists Technical Research Institute and Paint Standards, undated, 1957- 1981
Box 2, Folder 18-19	ATRI, 1942-1981 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 20	Color Forum, 1968-1971
Box 2, Folder 21-23	Goethe Book, 1970-1983 <i>3 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 24-26	International Research and Exchanges Board, 1979-1984 <i>3 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 27	Inter-Society Color Council (ISCC) Subcommittee 37, 1971-1982
Box 2, Folder 28-29	New York Bridges, 1981-1982 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 30	The "Structure of Color" Exhibition at the Whitney, 1971

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Series 8: Photographs, 1952-1960

3 folders (Box 2)

The photographs are of Aach and of his works of art.

Box 2, Folder 31 Photographs of Aach, 1956-1960

Box 2, Folder 32-33 Photographs of Works of Art, undated
2 folders

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Series 9: Scrapbook, 1951-1958

0.2 linear feet (Box 2)

The scrapbook is full of clippings, exhibition announcements and articles about Aach and his artwork.

Box 2, Folder 34

Scrapbook, 1951-1958

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Series 10: Printed Material, 1948-1988

0.2 linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, press releases, brochures and programs.

Box 2, Folder 35	Clippings, undated
Box 2, Folder 36-39	Clippings, 1954-1988 <i>4 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 40	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, undated
Box 2, Folder 41	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1948-1953 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1954-1988 <i>5 folders</i>
Box 3, Folder 6	Press Releases, 1967-1979
Box 3, Folder 7	Brochures/Seminar Announcements, 1951-1979
Box 3, Folder 8	Programs, 1965-1980
Box 3, Folder 9	Exhibition Entry Brouchures, 1974-1979
Box 3, Folder 10	Miscellaneous, 1963-1977

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Series 11: Audio-Visual Materials, 25 April 1975

0.2 linear feet (Box 3)

The audio-visual materials is comprised of a 55-minute U-matic audiocassette entitled *Herb Aach*, made at the Albright-Knox Gallery.

Box 3, Folder 11

One Inch Videotape: *Herb Aach*, color, 55 min, Albright-Knox Gallery, 25 April 1975

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