



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ruth Abrams Papers, 1934-1983, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ruth Abrams papers
<b>Date:</b>	1934-1983
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.abraruth
<b>Creator:</b>	Abrams, Ruth, 1912-1986
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York based artist and educator Ruth Abrams measure 1.0 linear foot and date from 1934 to 1984. The collection includes correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed material, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Ruth Abrams papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Ruth Abrams between 1981-1983.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed in 1989 by Jean Fitzgerald. A finding aid was written by Caroline Donadio in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Ruth Abrams papers, 1934-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ruth Abrams (1912-1986) was a painter in New York, NY. She was the art director at the Research Association of The New School from 1965 to 1966, and a lecturer at Parsons School of Design. Abrams is best known for her abstract style and outer-space paintings as well as a 1970s art film entitled, *Paradox of the Big*.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York based artist and educator Ruth Abrams measure 1.0 linear foot and date from 1934 to 1984. The collection includes correspondence with colleagues and business associates; writings and notes related to Abrams 1970's film *Paradox of the Big* and writings by others; personal business records; exhibition announcements, news clippings, and other printed materials; and photographs. Photographs depict Abrams in her studio and with colleagues and students, exhibition openings, including four photographs of Ilya Bolotowsky attending her 1977 exhibition, and photographs of artwork.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1948-1982 (Box 1; 12 folders)
  - Series 2: Writings and Notes, 1957-1977 (Box 1; 10 folders)
  - Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1958-1977 (Box 1; 3 folders)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, 1934-1983 (Box 1; 16 folders)
  - Series 5: Photographs, 1950-1978 (Box 1; 6 folders)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching  
Artists' studios--Photographs  
Women artists  
Women educators  
Women painters

### Types of Materials:

Photographs

### Names:

Bolotowsky, Ilya, 1907-1981

### Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence , 1948-1982, undated

*12 Folders (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with colleagues and business associates and is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1-2      Correspondence, undated

Box 1, Folder 3-12      Correspondence, 1948-1982

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## Series 2: Writings and Notes, 1957-1977, undated

### 10 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings and notes consist of material related to Abrams 1970's film *Paradox of the Big* and writings by the artist and others.

Box 1, Folder 13-16	Paradox of the Big, 1957-1975
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Box 1, Folder 17-21	Notes and Writings by Abrams, undated
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Box 1, Folder 22	Writings about Abrams, 1962-1977
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## Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1955-1979

### *3 Folders (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Personal business records contain pricelists, receipts, and registers.

Box 1, Folder 23	Guest Registers, 1961-1977
Box 1, Folder 24	Business Records, 1958-1971
Box 1, Folder 25	Business Records, Receipts, Pricelists, 1955-1979

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1934-1983

### 16 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings, exhibition catalogs, exhibition announcements, and press releases.

Box 1, Folder 26	Press Releases, 1950-1977
Box 1, Folder 27-31	Clippings, 1934-1978, undated
Box 1, Folder 32-36	Exhibition Announcements, 1934-1979, undated
Box 1, Folder 37-38	Exhibition Catalogs, 1943-1963, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 39	Of Time and Place (1981), 1981
Box 1, Folder 40	American Drawings, Watercolors, Pastels, and Collages in the Collection of the Corcoran (1983), 1983
Box 1, Folder 41	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1964-1977

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## Series 5: Photographs, 1950-1978, undated

### 6 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Photographs consist of photographs of the artist in her studio and with colleagues and students, photographs of Abrams at various openings, including 4 photographs of Ilya Bolotowsky attending her 1977 exhibition at the Vernissage, Loeb Gallery at NYU, and photographs of Abrams' work and the works of others owned by Abrams.

Box 1, Folder 42	Photographs of Abrams, 1978, undated
Box 1, Folder 43	Abrams with Friends and Students, 1950-1977
Box 1, Folder 44	Abrams at Roko Gallery Opening, 1959
Box 1, Folder 45	Abrams at Microcosms Opening, Caracas, Venezuela, 1963
Box 1, Folder 46	Abrams at Vernissage, Loeb Gallery, NYU, 1977
Box 1, Folder 47	Works of Art by Abrams and others, undated

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