



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Mary Cecil Allen papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Mary Cecil Allen papers
Date:	1928-1970
Identifier:	AAA.allemary
Creator:	Allen, Mary Cecil, 1893-1962
Extent:	2 Volumes
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1996 by Elisabeth Hooker. Hooker was a friend of Allen's and found the papers among Allen's effects soon after her death.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Painter, teacher, lecturer; Melbourne, Australia, New York, N.Y. and Provincetown, Mass. She was also known as Cecil Allen and Mary Cecil. Allen was born in Australia. She studied at the National Gallery of Victoria for several years, and briefly at the Slade School in London. In 1927, she accepted an invitation to lecture on art for the People's Institute, sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation. The lectures formed the basis for her two books, *The Mirror of the Passing World* (1928) and *Painters of the Modern Mind* (1929), and for her successful lifelong career as a lecturer. She returned to Melbourne during 1935-1936, where she lectured on modern art and exhibited her work. From 1950 until her death she lived in Provincetown, Mass., returning to Australia in 1950 and 1959-1960 to exhibit and lecture. She died in Provincetown on April 7, 1962.

Scope and Contents

A scrapbook, ca. 1934-1962, containing clippings, pamphlets, and photographs; the bulk are Australian press clippings from 1935-1936 when Allen was in Melbourne; and Allen's book, *The Mirror of the Passing World* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1928). Inserted in the book are a letter to Elisabeth Hooker, 1970, and a snapshot of Allen with the painters Henry and Ada Hensche and art shop owner, Will Rogers, in the Hensche's house, Provincetown, Mass.

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
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Allen, Mary Cecil, 1893-1962 -- Mirror of the passing world
- Hensche, Henry, 1901- -- Photographs

Occupations:

- Educators -- Australia
- Painters -- Australia