A Finding Aid to the Ruth Armer Papers, 1911-1976, in the Archives of American Art

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The papers of painter Ruth Armer measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1976. The collection includes scattered documentation of Armer's career through printed bookplates, biographical material, correspondence, personal business records, photographs, printed material, a scrapbook, and writings and notes.
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Biographical / Historical
Ruth Armer (1896-1977) was a painter active in San Francisco, California. Armer studied at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art (San Francisco Art Institute) and in New York City with Robert Henri, George Bellows, and John Sloan. During her career she worked as a commercial illustrator as well as a landscape and portrait artist. In the late-1930s she experimented with abstraction, a tendency reinforced by contact with the California School of Fine Arts abstract expressionist movement in the late-1940s. Armer taught for years in the Bay area and was an active exhibiting artist until her death.

Scope and Contents
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Arrangement
Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms
This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
Art -- Collectors and collecting
Women artists
Women educators
Women painters

Occupations:
Collectors -- California -- San Francisco
Educators -- California -- San Francisco
Painters -- California -- San Francisco
Container Listing

Series 1: Ruth Armer Papers, 1911-1976

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1, BV 2)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of bookplates designed and signed by Ruth Armer for personal libraries. Biographical material includes resumes. Correspondence is with galleries and institutions, including Brownell-Lambertson Galleries, Inc. and the San Francisco Museum of Art. Also found are scattered sales records and lists.

Photographs depict Armer with her puppets and of two unidentified men. Photographs of works of art are of Armer's paintings, sculpture, and puppets. Also found are photos of exhibitions.

A scrapbook dates from 1911-1971 and contains clippings and other printed material pertaining to exhibitions and Armer's painting technique.

Writings include an artist statement, notes taken from an interview, and lists.

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