



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Mary Ascher Papers, 1949-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

2024/11/19

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Mary Ascher papers
Date:	1949-1980
Identifier:	AAA.aschmary
Creator:	Ascher, Mary G. (Mary Goldman), b. 1900
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Abstract painter Mary Ascher (1900-1988) measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1949 to 1980. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, financial records, guest books, photographs, printed material, and scattered writings. Also found are files relating to Ascher's works, <i>Corridors of Power</i> (1967) and <i>Women of the Bible</i> (1962).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mary Ascher donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1969 and 1981.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 833 and 865 available at Archives of American Art offices. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2024 with received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

Preferred Citation

Mary Ascher papers, 1949-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Abstract painter, printmaker, and stained glass artist Mary Ascher (1900-1963) was born in Leeds, England and active in New York City, New York. She studied at the New York School of Applied Design for Women and the Art Students League. Often, Ascher depicted scenes from the Bible and religious figures and was notable for her depictions of women.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Abstract painter Mary Ascher (1900-1988) measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1949 to 1980. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, financial records, guest books, photographs, printed material, and scattered writings. Also found are files relating to Ascher's works, *Corridors of Power* (1967) and *Women of the Bible* (1962).

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:

- Arts in the Bible
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women printmakers

Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Stained glass artists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Mary Ascher Papers, 1949-1980

1.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include artist's statements and resumes. Awards are from various New York area institutions including Baruch College.

Largely concerning Ascher's professional career, correspondence is from colleges, galleries, institutions, and museums. Also found are letters from friends congratulating Ascher on the opening of exhibitions. Correspondents include Clarence and Elsa Adler, Baruch College, Gertrude Ryder Bennett, Famous Artists Schools Inc, Fordham University, The Jewish Museum, John McGiver, National Association of Women Artists, Inc., Emily Roosevelt, and Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, D.D..

Four guest books are from Ascher's studio and from an exhibition at Barzausky Galleries and Fordham University. Scattered financial records consist of price lists and receipts, including exhibition expenses.

Photographs depict Mary Ascher, with her artwork, and at events. Photographs of exhibitions include one at Barzausky Gallery, a collaboration with Lenox, and of other events around New York City. Photographs and slides of works of art are largely annotated.

Printed materials focus on Ascher's career as a painter and poet. Found are clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, newsletters and brochures, and press releases.

Two project files include photographs, printed material, and writings and notes on *Corridors of Power* and *Women of the Bible*.

Writings consist of poems written by Ascher. Some poems relate directly to her artworks.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1962-1977
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1956-1980
Box 1, Folder 3	Financial Records, 1959-1972
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Guest Books, 1949-1974
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, of Mary Ascher, 1960-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs, of Exhibitions and Installations, 1959-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 8-10	Photographs and Slides, of Works of Art, 1949- circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1956-1975
Box 1, Folder 13-17	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1953-1978
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Printed Material, Newsletters and Press Releases, 1950s-1970

Box 2, Folder 4	Project File, Women of the Bible, 1962
Box 2, Folder 5	Project File, Corridors of Power, 1967-1970
Box 2, Folder 6	Writings and Notes, Poetry, 1959-circa 1974

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