



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Merle Baasch Papers, 1949- circa 1963, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2022/08/16

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Merle Baasch Papers, 1949-circa 1963	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Merle Baasch papers
Date:	1949-circa 1963
Identifier:	AAA.baasmerl
Creator:	Baasch, Merle D., 1914-1995
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of painter Merle Baasch measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1949 to circa 1963. The collection includes sketches taken from a sketchbook, biographical material including a home movie recording, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and writings and notes.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Merle Baasch donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1962.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 30 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement on microfilm.

Processing Information

The Merle Baasch papers were arranged upon receipt and microfilmed on reel 30. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Merle Baasch papers, 1949-circa 1963. 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

Merle Baasch (1914-1995) was a painter and composer active in Long Island, New York, who painted landscapes inspired by her surroundings in Bayport and Sayville, New York.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter Merle Baasch measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1949 to circa 1963. The collection includes sketches taken from a sketchbook, biographical material including a home movie recording, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and writings and notes.

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:

Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Composers -- New York (State)
Painters -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Merle Baasch Papers, 1949-circa 1963

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2, FC 3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include identification cards and invitations and a home movie recording showing Baasch's studio in winter. Correspondence is from family, friends, institutions, and arts organizations. Photographs depict Baasch, Baasch in her studio, and artwork. Printed materials consist of clippings, newsletters, and exhibition announcements and catalogs, many of which are hand drawn. Writings including lists of works of art, poems, and a notebook. Also found are sketches taken from a sketchbook.

Oversize 2 Artwork, Sketches, Oversized, circa 1950

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Material, 1957-circa 1960

Item FC 3 Home Movie, circa 1954-1960
1 Film reel (8mm)

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1949-1962

Box 1, Folder 3 [Photographs, 1950s-1960s](#)

Box 1, Folder 4-5 Printed Material, 1953-1964

Box 1, Folder 6-7 Writings and Notes, circa 1950-1963

[Return to Table of Contents](#)