



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Saul Baizerman Papers, circa 1916-1963, in the Archives of American Art

Funding for the digitization of the microfilm for this collection  
was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

2023-11-14

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Saul Baizerman papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1916-1963
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.baizsaul
<b>Creator:</b>	Baizerman, Saul, 1889-1957
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York sculptor Saul Baizerman measure 3 linear feet and date from circa 1916-1963. The collection documents Baizerman's career through biographical information, writings by Baizerman including poems, lectures, plays, and writings on art, a few exhibition records, drawings and sketches, printed material, photographs of Baizerman and his work, and a dismantled scrapbook.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Joan Hay Baizerman, Saul Baizerman's second wife, loaned the papers to the Archives of American Art for microfilming in 1964. She subsequently donated the papers in 1971 with the exception of circa 300 sketches and circa 50 photographs from the original loan.

### Location of Originals

Circa 300 sketches and circa 50 photographs are in the possession of Joan Hay Baizerman.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Haim Mendelson correspondence with Saul Baizerman and others, 1946-1957 and the Julius Samuel Held papers relating to Saul Baizerman and Leonard Baskin, 1947-1976.

### Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reels N61-1 through N61-6. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

### Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed after receipt on reels N61001-N61006. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Stephanie Ashley in 2023 and the microfilm was digitized in 2023 with provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

Saul Baizerman papers, circa 1916-1963. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

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

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Born in Russia, New York sculptor Saul Baizerman (1889-1957) was known for his technique of hammering copper by hand to create relief sculptures. His deep sympathies for the labor movement and social causes informed his focus on the urban poor and manual worker as primary subjects for his work.

Baizerman came to the United States in 1910, settling in New York City, and subsequently trained as a sculptor at several art schools. In the 1920s he began shaping copper by hand in a process that involved forcefully hammering both sides of a copper sheet until an image appeared in relief. Two of Baizerman's most well-known works were a series of small-scale statuettes entitled "The City and the People" which he worked on throughout his life, and a "Labor" series. Baizerman also completed larger outdoor sculptures.

From 1934 to 1940 Baizerman taught sculpture, drawing, and anatomy classes at his own art institute, the Baizerman Art School. Thereafter, he continued to teach at the American Artists School and the University of Southern California, but focused primarily on his own artwork.

Baizerman was married to painter Eugenie Baizerman from 1920 until her death in 1949. Baizerman died of cancer at the age of 68.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York sculptor Saul Baizerman measure 3 linear feet and date from circa 1916-1963. The collection documents Baizerman's career through biographical information, writings by Baizerman including poems, lectures, plays, and writings on art, a few exhibition records, drawings and sketches, printed material, photographs of Baizerman and his work, and a dismantled scrapbook.

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## Arrangement

Due to prior arrangement on microfilm the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Baizerman, Eugenie, 1899-1949

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Saul Baizerman Papers, circa 1916-1963

**Scope and Contents:** Biographical material includes early identification and registration papers, grant applications, and biographical notes. Personal correspondence includes letters written between Baizerman and his first wife, Eugenie, while he was working in England and Russia in 1924-1925, and letters to his second wife, Joan. One folder of exhibition material includes correspondence on loans, artwork selections, and other arrangements for exhibitions, as well as identification labels for works, invitations, press releases, and other material. Writings by Baizerman include manuscripts for plays, stories, and poems which contain autobiographical references; notebooks and notes for lectures; and writings on art including about Eugenie Baizerman's work. "Tales of Petro" concern a symbolic figure who took the form of a wooden puppet which Baizerman had patented with the unrealized intention of selling the puppet to children. In addition to the manuscripts for the tales, there are drawings and cartoons featuring Petro, photos of the puppet, and patent records.

Printed material includes exhibitions catalogs and announcements, published articles, and clippings relating to Baizerman and other printed material. There are photographs, sketches and notes relating to individual works of art by Baizerman, including "City and the People," as well as sketches and photographs organized by type. Photographs include images of Baizerman and his works of art. A dismantled scrapbook records Baizerman's career primarily through clippings and other printed material.

Reel N61002, Frame  
317-349

[Biographical Material, circa 1916-circa 1940s](#)

Reel N61003, Frame  
213-253

["City and the People" Series, Sketches/Drawings, undated](#)

Reel N61003, Frame  
254-325

["City and the People" Series, Notes and Photographs, undated](#)

Reel N61006, Frame  
102-164

[Exhibition Records, circa 1926-1960](#)

Reel N61001, Frame  
1-7

[Letters from Daughter, Ugesies, undated-1934](#)

Reel N61001, Frame  
8-208

[Letters from Eugenie Silverman to Baizerman, 1923-1924](#)

Reel N61001, Frame  
209-385

[Letters from Baizerman in London to Eugenie Silverman, 1924](#)

Reel N61001, Frame  
386-427

[Letters from Baizerman in Russia to Eugenie Silverman, 1924](#)

Reel N61001, Frame 428-543	Letters from Eugenie Silverman to Baizerman, 1926-1935
Reel N61001, Frame 544-674	Letters from Baizerman to Eugenie Baizerman, 1930-1948
Reel N61002, Frame 1-164	Letters from Baizerman to Joan, 1948-1950
Reel N61001, Frame 675-760	Letters from Friends, undated-1949
Reel N61002, Frame 165-241	Letters, General, circa 1930s-1954
Reel N61005, Frame 204-398	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1930s-1953
Reel N61005, Frame 399-594	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1953-1956
Reel N61005, Frame 595-775	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1956-1961
Reel N61006, Frame 1-101	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1961-1963
Reel N61006, Frame 165-190	Printed Material, Publications, 1951-1963
Reel N61004, Frame 320-328	Photographs and Other Material Related to Portrait of George Bernard Shaw, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 329-335	Photographs and Other Material Related to "Wharf Scene", undated
Reel N61004, Frame 300-319	Photographs and Sketches Relating to Monumental Work, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 388-469	Photographs, Early Sculpture, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 497-525	Photographs, of Baizerman, Family, and Friends, circa 1916-circa 1950s
Reel N61004, Frame 470-496	Photographs of Baizerman in Studio and at Exhibitions, undated

Reel N61004, Frame 526-677	Photographs of Work in Copper, undated
Reel N61006, Frame 191-327	Scrapbook (dismantled), Clippings, 1920s-1950s
Reel N61004, Frame 1-64	Sketches/Drawings, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 256-287	Sketches/Drawings, Anatomical, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 209-242	Sketches/Drawings, Animals, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 65-208	Sketches/Drawings, Life, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 288-299	Sketches/Drawings, Miscellaneous, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 243-255	Sketches/Drawings, Working Figures, undated
Reel N61003, Frame 326-500	Sketches/Drawings and Notes for Book to be Based on the Plastic Anatomical Dictionary, undated
Reel N61003, Frame 501-685	Sketches/Drawings and Notes for Book to be Based on the Plastic Anatomical Dictionary, undated
Reel N61003, Frame 686-748	Sketches/Drawings, Notes, and Applications for Patents of Toys and Anatomical Figures, undated
Reel N61004, Frame 336-387	Sketches/Drawings and Other Material Related to Lenin Memorial, circa 1930s
Reel N61002, Frame 350-376	Writings About Baizerman, Drafts and Published Articles, undated-circa 1950s
Reel N61002, Frame 407-486	Writings by Baizerman, Drafts for Article, circa 1930s
Reel N61002, Frame 530-729	Writings by Baizerman, Draft Manuscript on Art, undated
Reel N61002, Frame 730-812	Writings by Baizerman, Draft Manuscript on Art, undated



Reel N61002, Frame 487-520	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Lectures to Students and Notes on Lectures, undated</a>
Reel N61004, Frame 678-787	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Manuscript of "Tales of Petro," Book 1, 1945</a>
Reel N61005, Frame 1-170	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Manuscript of "Tales of Petro," Book 2, 1945</a>
Reel N61005, Frame 171-203	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Material Concerning the Doll "Petro", circa 1920s-1930s</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 398-406	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Miscellaneous Notes/Papers, circa 1930s-circa 1950s</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 521-529	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Notes About Sculpture, undated</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 380-397	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Notes on Work Methods, undated</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 377-379	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, On Eugenia Baizerman's Painting, circa 1950s</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 264-316	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Poems, circa 1930s</a>
Reel N61002, Frame 242-263	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Poems to Joan, 1951</a>
Reel N61003, Frame 1-53	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Three Plays, 1: "Venus", 1931-1932</a>
Reel N61003, Frame 54-110	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Three Plays, 2: "Dusty Skylight", 1935</a>
Reel N61003, Frame 111-212	<a href="#">Writings by Baizerman, Three Plays, 3: "Pick 'Em Well", 1931</a>

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