



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Mark Baum Papers, 1926-1997, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Mark Baum papers
Date:	1926-1997
Identifier:	AAA.baummark
Creator:	Baum, Mark, 1903-1997
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Mark Baum date from 1926 through 1997 and measure 1.5 linear feet. Found within the collection are biographical and personal files; family and professional correspondence; exhibition announcements and catalogs; lecture notes and cassette tape recordings of lectures; writings, newspaper clippings, photographs and slides, loose sketches, sketchpads, sketchbooks, and stencils.

Administrative Information

Provenance

William Baum, son of Mark Baum, donated the papers to the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in 2001.

Processing Information

The papers were processed to a preliminary level in 2003 by volunteers.

Preferred Citation

Mark Baum papers, 1926-1997. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Mark Baum was born in 1903 in Sanok, Poland. He emigrated to the United States with his family in 1919 and settled in New York City. Baum studied at the National Academy of Design in 1924-1925 and at the Cape Cod School of Art in Provincetown, Massachusetts with C. W. Hawthorne in the summer of 1926. He was also trained as a furrier and supported himself and his family as an expert cutter of fur coats.

Early success with his figurative painting gave Mark Baum a reason to hope for a lifelong career as an artist. He had a show of watercolors at the Whitney Studio Galleries in 1929 and work was purchased by Juliana force. Baum followed his success with an exhibit of oil paintings at the Marie Harriman Gallery in 1930. Baum paid a visit to Alfred Stieglitz at his American Place gallery and recorded in his notes that Stieglitz bought a painting for his own collection.

During the Depression, Baum worked for the Works Program Administration in the easel division. He married in 1933 and his sons William and Paul were born in 1936 and 1939. Baum's wife Celia was an elementary school teacher who went on to receive a Ph.D. in education and become a professor of education at Brooklyn College.

In 1941, Mark Baum exhibited his paintings at the Perls Gallery. Other exhibitions at the St. Etienne Gallery in 1947 and the Laurel Gallery in 1948 established mark Baum as painter of sturdy figures, and city architectural views and landscapes. Some time in the late 1940s, Baum stopped painting for a while and, when he resumed, broke completely with his previous style. He adopted a staircase motif for a series of abstract and geometric patterns and elements appearing in endless combinations of vast surfaces of painted space.

In the early 1960s, Mark Baum took up residence in costal Maine, where he converted a spacious barn in Cape Neddick into a studio. He lived there until his death in 1997. The work of Mark Baum is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mark Baum date from 1926 through 1997 and measure 1.5 linear feet. Found within the collection are biographical and personal files; family and professional correspondence; exhibition announcements and catalogs; lecture notes and cassette tape recordings of lectures; writings, newspaper clippings, photographs and slides, loose sketches, sketchpads, sketchbooks, and stencils.

Arrangement

The collection has been organized on the folder level in a preliminary fashion and arranged into 7 loose series of similar materials. The collection has not been arranged at the item level.

- Series 1: Biographical and Personal Files, 1926-circa 1997 (Box 1; 5 folders)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1932-1996 (Box 1; 13 folders)
 - Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1963-1986 (Box 1; 4 folders)
 - Series 4: Exhibitions, 1929-1996 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1929-1963 (Box 1, OV 3; 2 folders)
 - Series 6: Sketchbooks and Sketchpads, circa 1940s-circa 1990s (Boxes 1-2, OV 3; 12 folders)
 - Series 7: Photographs and Slides, circa 1920s-circa 1990s (Box 2; 4 folders)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Slides
Sound recordings

Occupations:

Painters -- Maine -- Cape Neddick

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical and Personal Files, 1926-circa 1997

5 Folders (Box 1)

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificate of Naturalization, 1926
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, 1970-circa 1997
Box 1, Folder 3	Autobiographical Writing, circa 1950s, 1980s
Box 1, Folder 4	Automobile Accident, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 5	Power of Attorney, 1995

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1932-1996

13 Folders (Box 1)

Box 1, Folder 6	Baum, Celia, 1947, 1963-1965, 1971
Box 1, Folder 7	Baum, Paul (son), 1955-1965
Box 1, Folder 8-12	Baum, William (son), 1957-1970
Box 1, Folder 13	Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, 1983, 1985
Box 1, Folder 14	Malcolm, Norman, 1957-1969, 1982-1990
Box 1, Folder 15	Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 16	Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, Inc., 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 17	Galleries and Museums, Various, 1960-1985
Box 1, Folder 18	General, 1932, 1955-1996

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1963-1986

4 Folders (Box 1)

Box 1, Folder 19 Writings About Art, 1963-1965, 1985

Box 1, Folder 20 Audio-taped Lectures, undated

Box 1, Folder 21 Lecture Notes, undated

Box 1, Folder 22 Notes, Miscellaneous, 1981-1986

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Series 4: Exhibitions, 1929-1996

3 Folders (Box 1)

Box 1, Folder 23	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Baum, 1929-1981
Box 1, Folder 24	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, 1956, 1987-1996
Box 1, Folder 25	Exhibition Correspondence and Notes, 1929-1987

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Series 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1929-1963

2 Folders (Box 1, OV 3)

Box 1, Folder 26	Newspaper Clippings, 1929-1953, 1963
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Box OV 3	LIFE Magazine, 24 January 1954
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Series 6: Sketchbooks and Sketchpads, circa 1940s-circa 1990s

12 Folders (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Box 1, Folder 27-29 Loose Sketchbook Pages and Sketches, circa 1940s-circa 1990s

Box 1, Folder 30 Notebooks and Sketchpads, circa 1940s-circa 1990s

Box 2, Folder 1-7 Notebooks and Sketchpads, circa 1940s-circa 1990s

Box OV 3 Oversized Sketchbook (tracing paper tablet), undated

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Series 7: Photographs and Slides, circa 1920s-circa 1990s

4 Folders (Box 2)

Box 2, Folder 8	Personal Photographs, circa 1920s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1950s-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Slides of Paintings, circa 1988

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