



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Emanuel Benson papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Emanuel Benson papers
<b>Date:</b>	1924-1967
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.benseman
<b>Creator:</b>	Benson, Emanuel, 1904-1971
<b>Extent:</b>	0.8 Linear feet ((on 2 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1964-1978 by Benson and his widow, Elaine Benson.

### Other Finding Aids

Finding aid to the correspondents is available at Archives of American Art offices.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels D/NDA/B & 2384 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Educator, writer, and lecturer; Philadelphia, Pa. Was a consultant for the WPA Federal Art Project. Began a book on the project and died before it was finished. Francis V. O'Connor edited and completed the book, ART FOR THE MILLIONS.

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## Scope and Contents

Material relating to the Federal Art Project; and correspondence.

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REEL D/NDA/B: Reports; directives; articles; lectures; speeches; clippings; publications; the mock-up of a projected book on the project; and essays written for the book by Stuart Davis and Balcomb Greene. Papers

were kept by Benson as consultant to the Federal Art Project and are mostly related to the Community Art Centers and the Index of American Design.

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## Scope and Contents

REEL 2384: 482 cards and letters from artists and friends; lecture notes and writings; and a photograph (unidentified). Correspondents include Karl Knaths, Alexander Calder, Gustav Wolff, Alfred Stieglitz, Jacques Lipchitz, George Grosz, Arthur Machen, John Marin, Franklin Watkins, Wassily Kandinsky, and others.

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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:

Federal aid to the arts

Names:

Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976  
Davis, Stuart, 1892-1964  
Federal Art Project  
Greene, Balcomb, 1904-1990  
Grosz, George, 1893-1959  
Index of American Design  
Kandinsky, Wassily, 1866-1944  
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971  
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973  
Machen, Arthur, 1863-1947  
Marin, John, 1870-1953  
O'Connor, Francis V.  
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946  
Watkins, Franklin Chenault, 1894-1972  
Wolff, Gustave, 1863-1935

Functions:

Art centers