



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Edward Biberman Papers, 1939-1985, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2019/10/02

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Edward Biberman papers
<b>Date:</b>	1939-1985
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bibeedwa
<b>Creator:</b>	Biberman, Edward, 1904-1986
<b>Extent:</b>	2.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter and educator Edward Biberman measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1939 to 1985. The papers document Biberman's career in Los Angeles through correspondence with friends and colleagues; writings such as speeches and articles; sound recordings and related documents for his "Dialogues in Art" television program, including recordings featuring Henry Hopkins, Howard Warshaw, June Wayne, Charles White, and others; and lectures and interviews with other educators or for television programs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Edward Biberman papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Sonija Dahl Biberman in 1987.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming 106, frames 151-601. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Edward Biberman conducted by Betty Hoag, April 15, 1964.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels LA 1, 106, and 832 at the 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 of the collection on microfilm.

Some of the sound and video recordings in the collection were digitized for research access and are available at the Archives of American Art offices.

## Processing Information

The collection was partially microfilmed on reels LA 1, 106, and 832 before the bulk of the loaned material was subsequently donated and received a preliminary level of arrangement. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2019.

## Preferred Citation

Edward Biberman papers, 1939-1985. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

## Terms of Use

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## Biographical / Historical

California painter and educator Edward Biberman (1904-1986) was known for his stylized portraits and history-inspired murals.

Biberman was born in Philadelphia and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Between 1929 and 1936 he lived in New York City where he became acquainted with muralist Diego Rivera and decided to focus on creating murals. He moved to Los Angeles in 1936 where he was commissioned to create murals for the city's downtown U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.

Biberman was also an educator who taught at the Art Center School in Los Angeles, lectured widely on art, and hosted television shows including "Dialogues in Art" from 1967 to 1968.

Biberman was married to sculptor Sonija Dahl Biberman (1910-2007) for 51 years. His brother, Herber J. Biberman, was a film director who was imprisoned for contempt of congress by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Edward Biberman measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1939 to 1985. The papers document Biberman's career in Los Angeles through correspondence with friends and colleagues; writings such as speeches and articles; sound recordings and related documents for his "Dialogues in Art" television program, including recordings featuring Henry Hopkins, Howard Warshaw, June Wayne, Charles White, and others; and lectures and interviews with other educators or for television programs.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1939-1985 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Writing, 1947-1978 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: "Dialogues in Art" Records, 1966-1969 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Lectures, Interviews, and Event Records, 1965-1978 (1.0 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 5: Artwork, 1942 (0.1 linear feet; OV 3)

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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:

Interviews  
Scrapbooks  
Sound recordings  
Video recordings

### Names:

Biberman, H. J. (Herbert J.)  
Hopkins, Henry, 1928-2009  
Warshaw, Howard  
Wayne, June, 1918-2011  
White, Charles, 1918-1979

### Occupations:

Educators -- California -- Los Angeles  
Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1939-1985

#### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Correspondence is between Biberman and friends, colleagues, and organizations such as Blue Heron Press and the Public Buildings Administration, and includes fan mail, and letters related to Biberman's book *The Best Untold* and art-related activities.

**Arrangement:** General correspondence in chronological order is followed by correspondence by subject in alphabetical order.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1950-1967
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1970-1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1974-1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1979
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1980-1985
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Blue Heron Press, 1953-1955 Notes: Correspondence related to Biberman's book <i>The Best Untold</i> .
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence and Papers regarding Herbert Biberman, 1968-1971
Box 1, Folder 10-11	Late Commissions, 1973-1985
Box 1, Folder 12	Missing Mural, Venice, California Post Office, 1970-1983
Box 1, Folder 13	Records on "Advancing American Art" Exhibition, 1940-1947
Box 1, Folder 14-17	Section of Fine Arts, Public Building Administration, 1939-1942 Notes: Also included are legal documents and contracts for works commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts.

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## Series 2: Writings, 1947-1978

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include speeches given by Biberman, articles, scripts for some of his television programs, and biographical material written about him.

Arrangement: Series is arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 18	Typescript, "The Attack on the American Artist", 1947
Box 1, Folder 19	Speeches for "Council News" and Masonic Temple, circa 1947
Box 1, Folder 20	Speeches, "Modern Institute of Art, Beverly Hills" and "Chairman's Notes-Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council Spring Conference", 1948-1949
Box 1, Folder 21	Speeches, "ASP Conference," "Art For Whose Sake," and "Can We Change Stereotype About Artists?", 1949-1953
Box 1, Folder 22	"The False Defenders of Picasso" by Renato Guttoso, 1953
Box 1, Folder 23	Biographical Material, 1974, 1978
Box 1, Folder 24	"Survey of Contemporary Mexican Art", undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Script, "The Roots of Art," "The Materials of Art," and "The Artist, the Scientist, and the Philosopher", undated
Box 1, Folder 26	Typescript, "The Pattern of Discrimination in the Fine Arts", undated

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## Series 3: "Dialogues in Art" Records, 1966-1969

## 0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Material related to Biberman's television show "Dialogues in Art" includes contracts and proposals, and files for each episode that contain a summary, photographs, and audio of the episodes.

Arrangement: The series is arranged with contracts and proposals first followed by episode files in script order.

Box 1, Folder 27-29	Contracts and Proposals, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 30	Photographs, Biberman, Keith Finch, and Printmaker from Tamarind, undated
Box 1, Folder 31	Poems and Fan Mail, 1969
Box 1, Folder 32	"Show 1: Charles Mattox" and "Show 16: Howard Warshaw", 1967 October 26, 1968 March 6 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 33	"Show 2: Joe Young" and "Show 3: Charles White", 1967 November 3, 1967 November 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 34	"Show 4: Gerda With" and "Show 5: Tony Berlant and Henry Hopkins", 1967 November 24, 1968 January 3 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 35	"Show 6: Lee Mullican" and "Show 7: Emil J. Kosa Jr.", undated, 1967 December 6 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 36	"Show 8: June Wayne" and "Show 9: James Strombotne", 1967 December 13, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 37	Interviews with June Wayne and James Strombotne, undated 2 Sound tape reels
Box 1, Folder 38	"Show 10: Renzo Fenci" and "Show 11: Bernie Casey", 1968 April 24, 1967 December 27 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 39	"Show 12: Keith Finch" and "Show 13: Lucile Brokaw", 1968 February 7, 14 Notes: There are no audio cassettes or reels of these episodes.
Box 1, Folder 40	"Show 14: Oliver Andrews" and "Show 15: Millard Sheets", 1968 January 31, 1968 April 3



1 Sound cassette

Box 1, Folder 41	"Show 17: Leonard Edmondson" and "Show 18: Sueo Serisawa", undated, 1968 March 27 1 Sound cassette
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Box 1, Folder 42	"Show 19: Clare Falkenstein" and "Show 20: Saul Bass", 1968 April 10, 17 1 Sound cassette
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## Series 4: Lectures, Interviews, and Event Records, 1965-1978

*1 Linear foot (Box 2)*

Scope and Contents: Series consists of sound and video recordings of lectures by Biberman, interviews conducted by Biberman, and interviews with Biberman for television programs.

Box 2, Folder 1-2	Art Explosion, 1965, June 1, 8 4 Sound tape reels
Box 2, Folder 3	"Art of the 30s" and "The Artist Looks at Society", 1967 May 9, 1968 May 11 2 Sound tape reels
Box 2, Folder 4	"Biberman Art Lecture #1" and "Westside J.C.C. Interview", undated 2 Sound tape reels
Box 2, Folder 5	"Biberman Intro" and "Untitled", undated, 1965 November 2 Sound tape reels
Box 2, Folder 6	Forgotten Heritage, undated 1 Sound cassette Notes: Also contains a roll of 35mm film to be played in conjunction with the audio cassette.
Box 2, Folder 7	Herbert Biberman Memorial Tribute, circa 1971 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Folder 8	Interview of Clare Loeb for KPFK, 1974 October 23 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Folder 9	Biberman and Keith Berwick "Lessons of History" Series This Segment: "The Arts" for NBC-TV, undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder 10	Keith Berwick interview of Biberman, "At One With" on NBC-TV, 1978, March 5 1 Videocassettes (VHS) 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Folder 11	"The New Morality's Reflection on the Arts," "Children," and "Dinner at Kahn's", 1969 February, March 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Folder 12	"Surrealism, Symbolism, Mysticism" Palm Springs Lecture, 1974 April 3 Sound cassettes

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## Series 5: Artwork, 1942

### 0.1 Linear feet (OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of sketches for a United States war bond campaign and a list of works in private collections.

Oversize 3                      Sketches, "Proposed Designs for Small Poster Campaign for US War Bonds", 1942

Oversize 3                      List of Paintings in Private Collections, undated

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