



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Paul Bodin Papers, 1932-1981, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Paul Bodin papers
Identifier:	AAA.bodipaul
Date:	1932-1981
Creator:	Bodin, Paul, 1910-1994
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection measures 0.2 linear feet, dates from 1932 to 1981 (bulk dates 1932-1963), and primarily documents the friendship of painter Paul Bodin with abstract expressionist painter Adolph Gottlieb. Found within the papers are letters from Gottlieb; printed material; and photographs of Bodin's art work.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Paul Bodin papers were donated in 1993 by Paul Bodin and Aaron Bodin, the artist's son.

Processing Information

The papers were processed in November 2005 by Jean Fitzgerald.

Preferred Citation

Paul Bodin papers, 1932-1981. 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

Paul Bodin was born in New York City on October 30, 1910. He studied first at the National Academy of Design, but transferred to the Art Students League in 1928, briefly studying under Boardman Robinson.

During the 1930s and early 1940s, Bodin was part of a circle of artists that included Milton Avery, Mark Rothko, and Adolph Gottlieb, who worked in New York City, and Gloucester and Provincetown, Massachusetts. During the Depression, Bodin worked with the WPA Federal Arts Project, completing many paintings of tenement interiors, portraits of family members, and self-portraits. His first solo exhibition was in 1936.

He made his first abstract paintings in 1945 and exhibited regularly in Manhattan until the early 1960s.

Paul Bodin died on February 15, 1994.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of painter Paul Bodin measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1932-1981 (bulk dates 1932-1963). Found within the papers are letters from Bodin's mentor, abstract expressionist Adolph Gottlieb. These letters document Bodin's long friendship with Gottlieb and provide details about Gottlieb's activities and interests. There is one letter from Gottlieb's wife, Esther. Also found with the papers are a clipping, exhibition announcements for Bodin, and photographs of Bodin's art work.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Abstract expressionism
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Gottlieb, Adolph, 1903-1974
Gottlieb, Esther Dick

Container Listing

Series 1: Paul Bodin Papers, 1932-1981, undated

23 Folders (Box 1)

Box 1, Folder 1-20 Letters from Adolph and Esther Gottlieb, 1932-1981, undated

Box 1, Folder 21 Clipping about Bodin, 1949

Box 1, Folder 22 Exhibition Announcements for Bodin, 1958-1961

Box 1, Folder 23 Photographs of Artwork by Bodin, 1952-1955, undated

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