



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

William Theo Brown 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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William Theo Brown papers
Date:	1845-1971
Identifier:	AAA.browwilt
Creator:	Brown, William Theo, 1919-2012
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet ((on 4 microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels 877 and 921 lent for microfilming and remainder donated 1974 by William T. Brown. Catalogs on reel 1095 were transferred to NMAA/NPG Library after microfilming.

Location of Originals

Reels 877 & 921: Originals returned to William T. Brown after microfilming.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Painter; San Francisco, Calif. Associated with the late 1950s movement of Bay Area figurative painting. Had particularly close ties with contemporary musical and literary worlds.

Scope and Contents

Scrapbooks, photograph albums, sketchbooks, correspondence, manuscripts, and printed material reflect Brown's work as a painter, and his ties with contemporary musical and literary figures.

Scope and Contents

REEL 877: Four scrapbooks, 1946-1972, containing: photographs of composers Igor Stravinsky and Paul Hindemith, artist Don Bachardy and Brown; letters and notes to Brown from musicians Stravinsky, Hindemith, John Cage, and Samuel Barber; drawings and photographs of works by Brown; clippings; and manuscript material by John Cage and Francis Poulenc.

Scope and Contents

REEL 921: Eight photograph albums, 1941-1971, including photos of Brown's work; photos of Brown at MacDowell Colony working on a series of self-portraits; of Brown, friends, and other artists, including Paul Wonner, Sonia Sekula, John McLaughlin, Jack Zajac, Sterling Holloway, Richard Diebenkorn, Mary Callery, David Park, Robert Shaw, poet May Sarton, playwright William Inge, composers Igor Stravinsky and Paul Hindemith, author Christopher Isherwood, and others.

Scope and Contents

REELS 1095 and 1116 (photographs only): Correspondence, ca. 1923-1974; with artists, musicians, writers, composers, and others; privately published letters of Brown's grandfather; sketchbooks, including two from his early years, 1926 and 1930-1934, and six done in Europe, 1945; one sketch by Brown and one each by Paul and Gertrude Hindemith; manuscripts; photographs of family, friends, and associates; photographs of drawings; catalogs and announcements; printed papers; legal documents; and 2 clippings relating to Igor Stravinsky.

Scope and Contents

REEL 1095: Correspondents include: Eugene Anderson, Cecil Beaton, James Broughton, Van Deren Coke, Robert Craft, Jay DeFeo, Elaine De Kooning, Richard Diebenkorn, Richard Donovan, Vladimir Golschmann, George H. Hamilton, Thomas B. Hess, Gertrude Hindemith (36 letters), Paul Hindemith, David Hockney, Bart Howard, William Inge, Christopher Isherwood, Dorothy Jenkins, Frank Johnson, Gavin Lambert, Jo Lathwood, Amy Loomis, Ben Masselind, Everett Meeks, Nathan Oliveira, Mary Petty, Josephine Carson Rider, Muriel Rukeyser, Eva Marie Saint, Leo Schrade, Bruce Simonds, Helen Stone, Vera Stravinsky, Richard Swift, Ann Tardos and Wayne Thiebaud; many are represented with only one letter.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Composition (Music) -- 20th century
Music -- 20th century
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area

Names:

Anderson, Eugene Newton
Bachardy, Don, 1934-
Barber, Samuel, 1910-
Barton, Betsy
Beaton, Cecil Walter Hardy, Sir, 1904-
Broughton, James
Callahan, Harry M.
Callery, Mary, 1903-1977
Carson, Josephine, 1919-
Coke, Van Deren, 1921-
Craft, Robert

Davis, Charles H. (Charles Harold), 1856-1933
De Kooning, Elaine
DeFeo, Jay, 1929-1989
Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993
Donovan, Richard
Golschmann, Vladimir, 1893-1972
Hamilton, George Heard
Hess, Thomas B.
Hindemith, Gertrud, 1900-1967
Hindemith, Paul, 1895-1963
Hockney, David
Holloway, Sterling
Howard, Bart
Inge, William
Isherwood, Christopher, 1904-
Jenkins, Dorothy
Johnson, Frank
Kiesler, Frederick
Kiesler, Lillian, 1910?-2001
Lambert, Gavin
Lathwood, Jo
Loomis, Amy
Masselind, Ben
McLaughlin, John, 1898-1976
Meeks, Everett, 1879-1954
Oliveira, Nathan, 1928-2010
Park, David, 1911-1960
Petty, Mary
Poulenc, Francis, 1899-1963
Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-
Saint, Eva Marie, 1924-
Sarton, May, 1912-
Schrade, Leo, 1903-1964
Sekula, Sonja, 1918-1963
Shaw, Robert
Simonds, Bruce
Stone, Helen, 1903-
Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971
Stravinsky, Vera
Swift, Richard, 1927-
Tardos, Anne, 1943-
Thiebaud, Wayne
Wonner, Paul, 1920-2008
Zajac, Jack, 1929-

Occupations:

Composers
Painters -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area