



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Sarah Burns Research Material on Perkins Harnly, circa 1900-2018, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Sarah Burns research material on Perkins Harnly
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1900-2018
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.burnsara
<b>Creator:</b>	Burns, Sarah
<b>Extent:</b>	1.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Sarah Burns research material on Perkins Harnly measures 1.9 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 2018. The material was compiled by Burns for her book about Harnly titled, <i>The Emphatically Queer Career of Artist Perkins Harnly</i> , published in 2021. The collection comprises Harnly's biographical materials that include documentary material on three video recordings, audio and video recordings of interviews with Harnly by Bill Paxton and others, and scrapbooks and miscellaneous materials containing a mixture of printed materials, drawings by Harnly, and photographs; Harnly's personal and professional correspondence with Bill Paxton and others; writings by Harnly and others on various subjects; postcards collected by Harnly while traveling, and announcements and catalogs for Harnly's exhibitions in printed materials; and photographic materials of Harnly, his travel snapshots, works of art, and a few miscellaneous photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Sarah Burns research material on Perkins Harnly was donated in 2022 by Sarah Burns.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Perkins Harnly papers, Lynda Roscoe Hartigan research material on Perkins Harnly, and a 1981 oral history interview with Perkins Harnly.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

### Preferred Citation

Sarah Burns research material on Perkins Harnly, circa 1900-2018. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sarah Burns is professor Emeritus of art history at Indiana University. Burns studied the career of artist Perkins Harnly (1901-1986) and wrote the book *The Emphatically Queer Career of Artist Perkins Harnly and His Bohemian Friends*, 2021.

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## Scope and Contents

The Sarah Burns research material on Perkins Harnly measures 1.9 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 2018. The material was compiled by Burns for her book about Harnly titled, *The Emphatically Queer Career of Artist Perkins Harnly*, published in 2021. The collection comprises Harnly's biographical materials that include documentary material on 3 video recordings, audio and video recordings of interviews with Harnly by Bill Paxton and others, and scrapbooks and miscellaneous materials containing a mixture of printed materials, drawings by Harnly, and photographs; Harnly's personal and professional correspondence with Bill Paxton and others; writings by Harnly and others on various subjects; postcards collected by Harnly while traveling, and announcements and catalogs for Harnly's exhibitions in printed materials; and photographic materials of Harnly, his travel snapshots, works of art, and a few miscellaneous photographs.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1900-2004 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1, OV 4)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1932-2018 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1941-circa 1980 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 4: Printed Materials, 1932-1984 (0.2 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1900-1981 (0.3 linear feet; Box 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:

Drawings  
Interviews  
Scrapbooks

Sound recordings  
Video recordings

Names:

Harnly, Perkins, 1901-1986  
Paxton, Bill

Occupations:

Art historians -- Indiana  
Authors -- Indiana

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1900-2004

*0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 4)*

**Scope and Contents:** The series consists of three video recordings labeled "Perkins Harnly" by Alan Warshaw, audio and video recordings of interviews with Harnly by Bill Paxton and Tom Huckabee; a disbound scrapbook containing photographs of Harnly, vintage photographs of Harnly's family, artwork, travel, and family, as well as letters and printed materials; a folder containing loose printed materials for a scrapbook of ideas; and miscellaneous materials by and about Harnly that consist of a mixture of printed materials, drawings by Harnly, and photographs.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Documentary Material on Harnly, circa 1982 3 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 3	Financial Records, 1979-1983
Box 1, Folder 4	Funeral Card, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 5	Interviews with Harnly by Tom Huckabee and Bill Paxton, 1984 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 6	Interviews with Harnly, 1984 3 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Miscellaneous Material By and About Harnly, circa 1975-2004
Oversize 4	Miscellaneous Material By and About Harnly, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 9	Passport Documents, 1931-1974
Box 1, Folder 10-11	Scrapbook, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 12	Scrapbook Material of Ideas, 1919-circa 1971

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1932-2018

### 2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Harnly's correspondence is to Bill Paxton, with his circle of friends, colleagues, and the National Gallery of Art / National Collection of Fine Arts. The folders "circle of friends," "important people," and "letters to day to day doings" were created by Burns for her research.

Box 1, Folder 13-14	General, 1969-1984
Box 1, Folder 15	"Circle of Friends", 1961-1984
Box 1, Folder 16	From Harnly to Bill Paxton, 1980-2018 Notes: Includes a letter from Louise Paxton, Bill's widow, regarding the letters.
Box 1, Folder 17	"Important People", 1932-1983
Box 1, Folder 18	"Letters of Day to Day Doings", 1980-1983
Box 1, Folder 19	National Gallery of Art / National Collection of Fine Arts, 1947-1983

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## Series 3: Writings, circa 1941-circa 1980

### 0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The series contains writing on necrophilia, plastic surgery, and Sarah Bernhardt by Harnly, a short essay about Harnly's birthplace, descriptions of paintings, notes and contacts, transcript by Lide McCord, and a paper titled, "Encyclopedia of Mexican Santos' Wardrobes and Legends as Told by Fernando Felix."

Box 1, Folder 20	By Harnly, Necrophilia or My Kingdom for a Hearse, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 21	By Harnly, Plastic Surgery, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 22	By Harnly, Sarah Bernhardt, circa 1975 Notes: Includes images of Bernhardt.
Box 1, Folder 23-24	By Harnly, "Trailing Oyster Feathers or Love Out of Focus by Frank West", circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 1	About Harnly's Birthplace, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 2	Descriptions of Paintings, circa 1941
Box 2, Folder 3	"Encyclopedia of Mexican Santos' Wardrobes and Legends as Told by Fernando Felix", circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 4	Miscellaneous, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 5	Notes and Contacts, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 6-8	Transcript by Lide McCord, circa 1970s

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## Series 4: Printed Materials, 1932-1984

### 0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Clippings about Harnly, several announcements and catalogs for Harnly's exhibitions, postcards collected by Harnly while traveling, and a few other miscellaneous items are in the series.

Box 2, Folder 9	Clippings, 1968-1983
Box 2, Folder 10	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Harnly, 1936-1984
Box 2, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 12	Postcards Collected by Harnly While Traveling, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 1	Postcards collected by Harnly While Traveling, circa 1970s

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## Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1900-1981

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of photographs of Harnly and others, travel snapshots taken by Harnly, and transparencies, slides, and photographs of works of art.

Box 3, Folder 2	<a href="#">Photographs of Harnly, circa 1900s-1981</a>
Box 3, Folder 3-5	Harnly's Travel Snapshots, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 6	Of Others and Miscellaneous Snapshots, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 7-9	Works of Art, circa 1970s

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