



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dorothy Bushnell Cole Papers, 1895-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2023/05/10

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Dorothy Bushnell Cole papers |
| Date: | 1895-1977 |
| Identifier: | AAA.coledoro |
| Creator: | Cole, Dorothy Bushnell |
| Extent: | 0.8 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of collagist and teacher Dorothy Bushnell Cole measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1895 to 1977. Found are appointment books, correspondence, a recording of a lecture, personal business records, photographs and slides, printed material and scattered writings and notes. The papers focus on Cole's career giving lectures around New York and New England on how to create collage and her works. Also found are letters between Cole's parents, Harry and Belle Hyman, to American-born Swedish suffrage activist Ruth Randall Edström and her husband industrialist Johannes Sigfrid Edström. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1977 by Dorothy Bushnell Cole.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Dorothy Bushnell Cole papers, 1895-1977. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Collagist and teacher Dorothy Bushnell Cole (1893-1990) was active in Chicago, Illinois and New York City, New York. She gave lectures and talks around New York and New England on creating collage.

Dorothy Bushnell grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. Her sister, Elaine Hyman was also an accomplished artist who took the name Kyra Markham. Cole attended Vassar College and returned to Chicago where she married Laurence Cole, a Chicago lawyer, and together they had four children. Upon the death of Cole, she married Nathan Blumberg in the late 1930s.

In 1951, Cole traveled to Mexico on a convalescence trip where she learned to free-hand cut paper and photographs to create collage. Recognizing how it helped her own mental health, she taught a workshop at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago to help others. She moved to New York City and continued her workshops for women's groups, museums, and schools.

Cole died in New York City in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The papers of collagist and teacher Dorothy Bushnell Cole measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1895 to 1977. Found are appointment books, correspondence, a recording of a lecture, personal business records, photographs and slides, printed material and scattered writings and notes. The papers focus on Cole's career giving lectures around New York and New England on how to create collage and her works. Also found are letters between Cole's parents, Harry and Belle Hyman, to American-born Swedish suffrage activist Ruth Randall Edström and her husband industrialist Johannes Sigfrid Edström.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings

Names:

Markham, Kyra, 1891-1967

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Illinois -- Chicago
Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York
Collagists -- Illinois -- Chicago
Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Dorothy Bushnell Cole Papers, 1895-1977

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Eleven appointment books provide documentation of Cole's lecture and speaking engagements in the New York and the New England area. Four original collages by Cole were used as flyers to advertise lectures and include photos. Correspondence includes Cole's personal and private family letters.

Professional letters focus on Cole's research for, and exhibition of, her collage entitled *A Tribute to Our National Bicentennial*. Family letters are from Cole's children and grandchildren, and also include one letter from Sigfrid Edström. Of note are letters between Cole's parents Harry and Belle Hyman to Ruth Randall and Sigfrid Edström. The Hymans and Edströms met at Unitarian Church function in the late 1890s and kept in touch after the Edströms moved to Sweden. The letters show the close friendship between Belle and Ruth and Belle shares news of her family and inquires about Ruth. A letter from Cole's sister Kyra Markham (nee Elaine Hyman) expresses thanks to her "Aunt Ruth" in 1911. Also found is a letter from lawyer and women's suffrage activist Kate F. O'Connor to Ruth Randall Edström in which she describes a trip taken by the Hymans to Sweden.

Audio recordings are of lectures given by Cole at a senior citizen's center and the Brearley School around 1976. Personal business records contain contracts for speaking engagements and lectures given by Cole at various clubs, community centers, institutions, museums, and schools.

Photographs include one dismantled album of vacation photos to Glacier National Park. Portraits and snapshots are of Dorothy Bushnell Cole, her mother Belle Bushnell Hyman, children, grandchildren, husbands, and other members of Cole's family. Photographs of events and gatherings include Vassar's Class Day of 1915 and various reunions, exhibitions, and parties. Also found are photographs and slides of Cole's collages. Some photographs are labeled and identified. Of note is a photograph of Kate F. O'Connor with Belle Hyman in Copenhagen in 1906. Printed material includes advertisements and press releases for lectures given by Cole and clippings.

An article about Cole and her artwork appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*. Also found are various notes and lists.

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| Box 1, Folder 1-3 | Appointment Books, 1964-1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Collages, 1955 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Correspondence, Personal, 1947-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Correspondence, Professional, 1947-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Correspondence, Harry and Belle Hyman to Ruth and Sigfrid Edström, 1895-1923 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Correspondence, Kate F. O'Connor to Ruth Edstrom, 1907 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Lecture, on Collage, circa 1976 |

1 Sound cassette

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Personal Business Records, 1962-1971 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Photographs, Album, circa 1918 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Photographs, Dorothy Bushnell Cole, circa 1911-1960s |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Photographs, Family Portraits and Snapshots, 1906-circa 1970 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Photographs, Family Snapshots Cut for Collage, circa 1900-1955 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Photographs, Parties and Events, 1915-circa 1968 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Photographs, Works of Art and Exhibitions, circa 1940-circa 1960 |
| Box 2, Folder 8-9 | Printed Material, 1958-1977 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Slides of Works of Art, 1951-1957 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Writings and Notes, circa 1950s-1960s |

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