



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

William Nelson Copley papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William Nelson Copley papers
Identifier:	AAA.coplwill
Date:	1948-1967
Creator:	Copley, William Nelson, 1919-1996
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reel 2709 donated 1976, by William Copley; material on reel 861 lent for microfilming 1975 by Copley.

Location of Originals

Reel 861: Originals returned to William N. Copley after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 861 and 2709 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

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.

Conditions Governing Use

"Portrait of an Artist as a Young Art Dealer": Authorization to publish, quote or reproduce requires written permission from Director, Centre Beauborg. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Painter, New York, N.Y. and gallery owner, Calif. Died May 1996.

Scope and Contents

Papers and gallery records including photographs, writings, announcements and catalogs.

Scope and Contents

REEL 2709: Announcements and catalogs for exhibitions at The Copley Galleries, Beverly Hills, California, 1948-1949; 97 photographs, mostly of installations of exhibitions at the gallery, and a few of paintings by Man Ray, 1948; and an undated essay by Copley, "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Art Dealer," 51 pages in which he describes the brief one year history of the gallery, which exhibited the work of the Surrealists, including Joseph Cornell, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, Rene Magritte, Roberto Sebastian Antonio Matta Echuarren, Man Ray, and Yves Tanguy.

Scope and Contents

REEL 861: Scrapbook, 1953-1967, in 3 volumes. Includes Copley's newspaper column; magazine clippings relating to his work and exhibits; and exhibition catalogs.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Surrealism

Names:

Copley Galleries (Beverly Hills, Calif.)
Cornell, Joseph
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
Ernst, Max, 1891-1976
Magritte, René, 1898-1967
Matta, 1912-2002
Ray, Man, 1890-1976
Tanguy, Yves, 1900-1955

Occupations:

Gallery owners -- California
Painters