



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Lily Emmet Cushing Papers, 1929-1972, 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:	Lily Emmet Cushing papers
Identifier:	AAA.cushlily
Date:	1929-1972
Creator:	Cushing, Lily Emmet, 1909-1969
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Lily Emmet Cushing date from 1929 to 1972 and measure 4.0 linear feet. Found within the papers are biographical material; letters from friends including Henri Bernstein, Alfred M. Frankfurter, Katharine Graham, Nancy Kefauver, and Walt Kuhn; personal business records including financial material concerning the Maynard Walker Gallery; notes and writings; art work; printed material; and photographs.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Lily Emmet Cushing papers were donated in 1972 by the artist's daughters Alexandra Emmet Schlesinger and Lily Emmet West.

Separated Material

An unrecorded number of exhibition catalogs were removed from the collection and given to the Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Art Library in 1977.

Processing Information

Portions of the collection were microfilmed separately on reels 963 and 1001; these reels are no longer in circulation. The unmicrofilmed papers and previously microfilmed papers were integrated, processed, and described in a finding aid by Jean Fitzgerald in December 2010.

Preferred Citation

Lily Emmet Cushing papers, 1929-1972. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Lily Cushing (1909-1969) of New York City was primarily known as a painter of landscapes and still lifes of flowers.

Lily Cushing was born on January 13, 1909 in New York City, the third child of Ethel Cochrane and artist Howard Gardiner Cushing. She studied painting in the studio of Alexandre Jacovleff in Paris from 1926-1927, and with Walt Kuhn in New York City in 1929. Cushing's first solo exhibition was at the Arden Gallery in New York in 1930.

In 1929, Cushing married George Crawford Clark Jr. in Newport, Rhode Island. Following her divorce from Clark, she married William Temple Emmet, Jr. in 1932. They had two daughters, Alexandra and Lily. Cushing's second marriage also ended in divorce. In 1953, she married naval officer Alston M. Boyd in New York.

Cushing's work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and in the private collections of Paul Mellon, John Hay Whitney, and Joseph P. Kennedy, among others.

Lily Cushing died on September 21, 1969, in Fishers Island, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of painter Lily Emmet Cushing date from 1929 to 1972 and measure 4.0 linear feet. Found within the papers are biographical material; letters from friends including Henri Bernstein, Alfred M. Frankfurter, Katharine Graham, Nancy Kefauver, and Walt Kuhn; personal business records including financial material concerning the Maynard Walker Gallery; notes and writings; art work; printed material; and photographs.

Biographical material consists primarily of address books and lists of addresses, but also includes miscellaneous resumés and a certificate of participation in the Art in the Embassies program. signed by Nancy Kefauver.

Scattered letters received by Cushing are primarily from friends including Henri Bernstein, Alfred M. Frankfurter, Katharine Graham, Nancy Kefauver, and Walt Kuhn. There are also letters concerning the Chinese Women's Anti-Aggression League that benefited the charitable and social welfare organizations of the Chinese Navy.

Personal business records include lists of art work and purchasers, price lists, financial and legal documents, and various receipts, including some for art supplies. Papers concerning the Maynard Walker Gallery include letters discussing sales, invoices, and a ledger listing sales of art work by various artists including Lily Cushing Emmet.

Notes and Writings consist of notebooks containing annotations on miscellaneous topics including household items, painting, plants, and recipes. Miscellaneous notes concern art work, fabric, and furnishings. Typescripts by others concern the genealogy of the Clark family.

Art work consists of a schematic drawing, small oil paintings on masonite, and a commercial printing block of a design by Walt Kuhn.

Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, programs, miscellaneous brochures, picture postcards of scenes in the United States, Europe, and Mexico and of Native Americans.

Photographs are of Cushing, her daughters, her third husband Capt. Alston Boyd, friends and colleagues including Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek, various houses, travel scenes, miscellaneous plants, and of art work. There is also a photograph of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1967 (Box 1; 14 folders)
 - Series 2: Letters, 1929-1972 (Box 1-2, OV 7; 1.4 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1934-1969 (Box 2-3, 6; 0.8 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1955-1969 (Box 3; 23 folders)
 - Series 5: Art Work, circa 1940 (Box 3, 6; 3 folders)
 - Series 6: Printed Material, 1930-1968 (Box 3, 6; 30 folders)
 - Series 7: Photographs, 1940-1968 (Box 3-6; 0.8 linear feet)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Landscape painting
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Notebooks
Paintings
Photographs
Postcards
Typescripts

Names:

Bernstein, Henri
Chiang, May-ling Soong, 1897-2003
Frankfurter, Alfred M.
Graham, Katharine, 1917-
Kefauver, Nancy, 1912-1967
Kuhn, Walt, 1877-1949
Maynard Walker Gallery
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994
Zhonghua fu nu fan gong kang E lian he hui

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1967

(Box 1; 14 folders)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists primarily of address books and address lists. There are also photocopies of Cushing's marriage license with Alston Boyd, miscellaneous resumés, and a certificate of participation in the Art in Embassies program.

Box 1, Folder 1	Photocopies of Marriage License; Miscellaneous Resumés, 1953-1967, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Certificate of Participation in Art in the Embassies Program, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Address Books, undated
Box 1, Folder 4-7	Cushing's Old List of Addresses, undated (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 8-11	Cushing's Revised List of Addresses, 1964 (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 12-14	Miscellaneous Address Lists, 1961-1967, undated (3 folders)

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Series 2: Letters, 1929-1972

(Box 1-2, OV 7; 1.4 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Scattered letters received by Cushing are primarily from friends including Alfred M. Frankfurter, Katharine Graham, and Nancy Kefauver. Ten letters each received from Walt Kuhn and French playwright Henri Bernstein encourage Cushing in her work and activities. There are single letters from Joseph Alsop, José Ferrer, Jacqueline Kennedy, Henry Cabot Lodge, Tex McCrary, and Arthur Schlesinger. There is also a file of letters concerning the Chinese Women's Anti-Aggression League that benefited the charitable and social welfare organizations of the Chinese Navy

Box 1, Folder 15-16	Unsigned Letters, undated (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 17-20	Letters from Correspondents with Unknown Surnames, undated (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 21	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "A" - "B,", undated
Box 1, Folder 22-27	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "C,", undated (6 folders)
Box 1, Folder 28	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "D" - "E,", undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "F,", undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "G,", undated
Box 1, Folder 31	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "H,", undated
Box 1, Folder 32	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "I" - "J,", undated
Box 1, Folder 33-34	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "K,", undated (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 35-37	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "L,", undated (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 38	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "M" - "O,", undated
Box 1, Folder 39	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "P" - "R,", undated
Box 1, Folder 40	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "S,", undated
Box 1, Folder 41	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "T,", undated
Box 1, Folder 42	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "W,", undated
Box 1, Folder 43	Letters from Correspondents with Surnames "Y,"

Box 1, Folder 44	Letters, 1941
Box 1, Folder 45	Letters, 1942
Box 1, Folder 46	Letters, 1943
Box 1, Folder 47-49	Letters, 1945 (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 50	Letters, 1948-1955
Box 1, Folder 51	Letters, 1956
Box 1, Folder 52-55	Letters, 1957 (3 folders)(Oversized Material Housed in OV 7)
Box 1, Folder 56	Letters, 1958
Box 1, Folder 57-59	Letters (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 60-67	Letters, 1960 (8 folders)
Box 2, Folder 1-10	Letters, 1961 (10 folders)
Box 2, Folder 11-15	Letters, 1962 (5 folders)
Box 2, Folder 16	Letters, 1963
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Letters, 1964 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Letters, 1964
Box 2, Folder 20-24	Letters, 1965 (5 folders)
Box 2, Folder 25	Letters, 1966
Box 2, Folder 26	Letters, 1967
Box 2, Folder 27-29	Letters, 1968 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 30	Letters, 1969-1972

Box 2, Folder 31	Letters from Walt Kuhn, 1929-1943
Box 2, Folder 32-33	Letters from Henri Bernstein, 1945, undated (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 34-39	Letters Concerning the Chinese Women's Anti-Aggression League, 1959-1960
Box OV 7, Folder	An Oversized Blueprint and Schematic Design for the Decoration of Ship Cabins, 1957, from Box 1, Folder 55

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1934-1969

(Box 2-3, 6; 0.8 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include lists of art work and purchasers, price lists, benefits reports from the will of Alexander Cochrane, stock reports, mortgage loan records, banking records, income tax records, insurance records, framing and shipping invoices, and receipts for art supplies, household and landscaping work, automobile repairs, and travel to Greece, Rhodes, Italy, Mallorca, and Mexico. Financial material concerning the Maynard Walker Gallery includes letters discussing sales, invoices, and a ledger listing sales of art work by various artists including Lily Cushing Emmet, John Edward Heliker, Walt Kuhn, Doris Lee, Frank Mechau, Dudley Morris, Andree Ruellan, Lee Townsend, and J. Alden Weir.

Box 2, Folder 40-51	Invoices and Letters from the Maynard Walker Gallery, 1954-1967, undated (12 folders)
Box 2, Folder 52-53	Lists of Art Work and Purchasers, 1957-1969 (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 54-56	Art Work Price Lists, 1963-1969 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 57-59	Benefits Reports from the Will of Alexander Cochrane, 1961-1965 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 60-63	Stock Reports, 1954-1967 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 64	Mortgage Loan Records, 1949-1959
Box 2, Folder 65-68	Banking Records, 1956-1964 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 69-70	Income Tax Records, 1956-1965 (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 71-74	Insurance Records, 1955-1964 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 75	Framing and Shipping Invoices, 1963-1968
Box 2, Folder 76	Gou Shipping Company Invoices, 1965
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Household Receipts, 1959-1966, undated (5 folders)
Box 3, Folder 6	Receipts for Landscaping, 1964-1968
Box 3, Folder 7	Receipts for Art Supplies, 1960-1967, undated
Box 3, Folder 8-9	Automobile Receipts, 1960-1966

	(2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 10-11	Receipts from Travel to Greece and Rhodes, 1960-1961 (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 12	Receipts for Travel to Italy, 1961
Box 3, Folder 13	Receipts for Travel to Mallorca (Spain), 1961-1967
Box 3, Folder 14	Receipts for Travel to Mexico, 1961-1968
Box 3, Folder 15-16	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1956-1968, undated (2 folders)
Box 6, Folder 1	Oversized Maynard Walker Gallery Ledger Listing Sales of Art Work by Various Artists including Cushing, 1934-1957

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Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1955-1969

(Box 3; 23 folders)

Scope and Contents: Notes and Writings consist of notebooks containing annotations on miscellaneous topics including household items, painting, plants, and recipes. Miscellaneous notes concern art work, fabric, and furnishings. Typescripts by others concern the genealogy of the Clark family.

Box 3, Folder 17	Notebook Containing Annotations in Chinese, undated
Box 3, Folder 18	Notebook Concerning Miscellaneous Topics, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Notebook "Some of Bertha's Recipes," undated
Box 3, Folder 20-22	Notebook "Recipes and Nostrums," 1955-1966, undated (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 23	Notebook: "Want Lists, E. M. Club Tailoring, and San Francisco House," 1958-1966
Box 3, Folder 24	Notebook Containing Annotations in Greek, 1960-1961
Box 3, Folder 25-29	Notebook Concerning Household Items and Notes on Painting, 1960-1961 (5 folders)
Box 3, Folder 30	Notebook: "Stowage," 1961
Box 3, Folder 31	Notebook: "Correspondence from S. F.," 1965-1966
Box 3, Folder 32	Notebook: "Plant Book - 2 Belmont, S.F.," 1966
Box 3, Folder 33	Notebook Concerning Miscellaneous Topics, 1969, undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Miscellaneous Notes on Art Work, 1961, undated
Box 3, Folder 35	Miscellaneous Notes on Fabric and Furnishings, undated
Box 3, Folder 36	Miscellaneous Notes, undated
Box 3, Folder 37	Notes and Writings by Others: "Notes by AI," undated
Box 3, Folder 38	Notes and Writings by Others: Typescript "Genealogy of Winifred Stockbridge Bartlett Clark," undated
Box 3, Folder 39	Notes and Writings by Others: Typescript: "Three with a History" by Winifred Shaw-Clark, undated

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Series 5: Art Work, circa 1940

(Box 3, 6; 3 folders)

Scope and Contents: Art work consists of a schematic drawing with annotations concerning a painting of flowers, three small oil paintings on masonite depicting portraits of girls and a scene at the beach, and a commercial printing block of a design by Walt Kuhn.

Box 3, Folder 40-41	Small Oil Paintings on Masonite, undated (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 42	Commercial Printing Block with Design by Walt Kuhn, undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Oversized Schematic Drawing of Flowers in a Vase, undated

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1930-1968

(Box 3, 6; 30 folders)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Cushing, programs, brochures concerning tiger balm, crafts in Mexico, and miscellaneous travel. Picture postcards are of Native Americans, and of scenes in the United States, Europe, and Mexico.

Box 3, Folder 43	Clippings, undated (Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 3, Folder 44	Clippings, 1930-1944
Box 3, Folder 45	Clippings, 1945
Box 3, Folder 46	Clippings, 1946-1947
Box 3, Folder 47	Clippings, 1948-1949
Box 3, Folder 48	Clippings, 1952-1955
Box 3, Folder 49	Clippings, 1957
Box 3, Folder 50	Clippings, 1959
Box 3, Folder 51-52	Clippings, 1960 (2 folders)(Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 3, Folder 53	Clippings, 1961
Box 3, Folder 54	Clippings, 1962-1968
Box 3, Folder 55	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, undated
Box 3, Folder 56	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1947-1948
Box 3, Folder 57	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960
Box 3, Folder 58	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1961
Box 3, Folder 59	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1964
Box 3, Folder 60	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Others, 1966-1967
Box 3, Folder 61	Programs, 1959-1960, undated
Box 3, Folder 62	Brochures Concerning Crafts of Mexico, undated

Box 3, Folder 63	Travel Brochures, 1961
Box 3, Folder 64	Miscellaneous Brochures, 1959, undated (Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 3, Folder 65	Picture Postcards of California, Nevada, and Hawaii, undated
Box 3, Folder 66	Picture Postcards of Miscellaneous Sites in the United States, undated
Box 3, Folder 67	Picture Postcards of Miscellaneous Sites in Europe, undated
Box 3, Folder 68	Picture Postcards of Miscellaneous Sites in Mexico, undated
Box 3, Folder 69	Picture Postcards of Native Americans, undated
Box 3, Folder 70	Fishers Island Telephone Directory, 1964-1965
Box 3, Folder 71	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1955-1966, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Three Oversized Chinese Newspapers, undated, (from Box 3, folder 43)
Box 6, Folder 3	Two Oversized Newspaper Clippings, 1960, (from Box 3, Folder 51)
Box 6, Folder 3	Oversized Brochure for Tiger Balm, undated, (from Box 3, Folder 64)

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Series 7: Photographs, 1940-1968

(Box 3-6 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Cushing, her daughters, her third husband Capt. Alston Boyd, friends and colleagues including Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek visiting an exhibition by Cushing, Cushing's homes in San Francisco and Fishers Island, travel scenes, miscellaneous plants, and of art work. There is also a photograph of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Box 3, Folder 72-73	Photographs of Lily Cushing, 1947-1966, undated (2 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 3, Folder 74	Photographs of Lily Cushing and Capt. Alston Boyd, 1953-1960
Box 3, Folder 75-77	Photographs of Capt. Alston Boyd, 1959, undated (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 78	Photographs of Cushing and Family Members, 1940-1960, undated (3 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Photographs of Cushing with Friends and Colleagues, undated (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Cushing at Unidentified Events, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs of Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek at an Exhibition of Cushing's Art Work, undated
Box 4, Folder 5	Photographs of Miscellaneous Friends, undated
Box 4, Folder 6-9	Photographs of Unidentified Houses, undated (4 folders)(Oversized Material Housed in Box 6)
Box 4, Folder 10	Photographs of the San Francisco House, undated
Box 4, Folder 11-12	Photographs of Fishers Island, 1968 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 13	Photographs of Mellons' Garden, 1968
Box 4, Folder 14	Photographs of Mexico and California, undated
Box 4, Folder 15-17	Miscellaneous Travel Photographs, 1954-1962, undated (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 18-19	Photographs of Miscellaneous Plants, 1967-1968, undated (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 20-28	Photographs of Art Work: Female Figures, undated

(9 folders)

Box 4, Folder 29	Photographs of Art Work: Views of New Orleans, undated
Box 4, Folder 30-31	Photographs of Art Work: Views of New York, undated (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 32	Photographs of Art Work: "Rome Morning,", undated
Box 4, Folder 33-36	Photographs of Art Work: Views of Rhodes, undated (4 folders)
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Photographs of Art Work: Views of Taiwan, undated (3 folders)
Box 5, Folder 4-5	Photographs of Art Work: Miscellaneous Towns and Buildings, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 6	Photographs of Art Work: Tropical Scenes, undated
Box 5, Folder 7-8	Photographs of Art Work: Forests and Parks, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 9-10	Photographs of Art Work: Flowers in Vases, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 11-12	Photographs of Art Work: Miscellaneous Plants, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 13	Photographs of Art Work: "Hat Rack,", undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Oversized Photograph of Lily Cushing, circa 1960, (from Box 3, Folder 72)
Box 6, Folder 4	Three Oversized Photographs of Cushing and her Daughters, circa 1960, (from Box 3, Folder 79)
Box 6, Folder 4	Oversized Aerial Photograph of Houses, undated, (from Box 4, Folder 7)

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