



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Worden Day Papers,
1935-1986, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Worden Day papers
Identifier:	AAA.dayword
Date:	circa 1935-1992
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet
Creator:	Day, Worden, 1916-1986
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor, painter and printmaker Worden Day (1916-1986) measure 3.5 linear feet and date from circa 1935-1992. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, writings, printed material, scrapbooks, photographic material, sketchbooks, and audiovisual material. There is a 1.0 linear foot additon, circa 1951-1992, donated in 2020 containing further papers of Worden Day.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art from 1972-1983 by Worden Day. Additional material was donated in 2017 by Constance Duhamel, Day's friend. Additional material was donated in 2020 by the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College via Constance Duhamel.

Available Formats

One sound recording and one video recording in the collection were digitized for research access and are available at Archives of American Art offices. Researchers may view the original cassette and reel for the archival notations on them, but originals are not available for playback due to fragility.

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 981, 1010, and 2016 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Worden Day papers, 1935-1986. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

Worden Day (1916-1986) was a sculptor, painter, printmaker and curator in Montclair, New Jersey. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Day graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1934. She then moved to New York City, and over the next few decades, studied drawing with Maurice Sterne and George Grosz; drawing, painting, and printmaking with William Von Schlegell, Harry Sternberg, Hans Hofmann, Will Barnet, and Vaclav Vytlačil at the Art Students League; and etching with Stanley William Hayter at the New School for Social Research. After earning her M.A. from New York University in 1966, Day taught as an instructor and lecturer in color theory, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, design, collage, American art history, modern art theory, and women artists. Her written reviews and essays were featured in publications such as *Art News*, *Art Voices*, and *Impressions*, and she had solo exhibitions throughout the United States, including at the Smithsonian Institution, Baltimore Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Montclair Art Museum.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, painter and printmaker Worden Day (1916-1986) measure 3.5 linear feet and date from circa 1935-1992. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, writings, printed material, scrapbooks, photographic material, sketchbooks, and audiovisual material.

Included are biographical material consisting of resumes and an address book. Correspondence is with colleagues, curators, and museum directors including Will Barnet, Carl Zigrosser, May Sarton, Dorothy Dehner, Louise Bourgeois, Sue Fuller, among others. Writings by Day are about sculpture and painting, among them four unpublished manuscripts "Pop Art as an American Cultural Phenomenon," "What is a Print," "The Found Dimension- Aspects in the Development of Modern American Sculpture," and "New Expressions of Woodcut," and reviews for exhibitions written by Day for *Art News*. Also found in the collection are printed materials; scrapbooks; photographs of Day, her works and photograph albums; and three sketchbooks. Audiovisual material is arranged with biographical material and includes a taped interview on audio cassette with Day and one reel of motion picture film (also available as digital files), "Printmakers," presented by United States Information Service, 1961, showing American printmakers Mauricio Lasansky, Day, Karl Schrag, Seong Moy and Gabor Petredi at work and students in the School of Graphic Arts at the State University of Iowa, founded by Lasansky. Also arranged with biographical material is a file relating to an exhibition on the work of painter Vaclav Vytlačil organized by Day in 1975 at the Montclair Art Museum containing correspondence; letter fragments from Alex Minewski; writings

by Vytlačil regarding his career and work with Hans Hofmann; an audio cassette; photographs of Vytlačil, Hofmann teaching in Munich, Ed and Isabell Rupprecht, Ernest Thurn, Betty Foster, and Alice Fish at the Hofmann School of Fine Arts, Munich; and the exhibition catalog.

There is a 1.0 linear foot additon, circa 1951-1992, donated in 2020 containing further papers of Worden Day.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as eight series

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1960-1986 (Box 1, FC6; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1977 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 3: Writings, 1955-1985 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1949-1983 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1940-1984 (Boxes 1, 4; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, 1935-1986 (Boxes 2-3; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks, 1960-1986 (Boxes 3, 5; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 8: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1951-1992 (Box 7; 1.0 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American
Art, Modern
Painters -- New Jersey
Painting
Pop art
Printmakers -- New Jersey
Prints -- Technique
Sculptors--New Jersey
Sculpture
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sound recordings
Video recordings
Woodcuts

Names:

Barnet, Will, 1911-2012
Bourgeois, Louise, 1911-2010

Dehner, Dorothy, 1901-1994
Fish, Alice
Foster, Betty
Fuller, Sue (1914-2006)
Hans Hofmann School of Fine Arts
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
Lasansky, Mauricio, 1914-
Minewski, Alex, 1917-1979
Montclair Art Museum
Moy, Seong
Peterdi, Gabor
Rupprecht, Edgar A.
Rupprecht, Isabell
Sarton, May, 1912-
Schrag, Karl
State University of Iowa
Thurn, Ernest
Vytlačil, Vaclav, 1892-1984
Zigrosser, Carl, 1891-

Occupations:

Art museum curators
Landscape painters -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1960-1986

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, FC6)

Biographical material dates from 1960-1986 and consists of addresses; a file relating to an exhibition on the work of painter Vaclav Vytlacil organized by Day in 1975 at the Montclair Art Museum; a sound recorded interview with Day; as well as price lists, loans forms, and resumes. Also included is a film "Printmakers," presented by United States Information Service, 1961, showing American printmakers Mauricio Lasansky, Day, Karl Schrag, Seong Moy and Gabor Petredi at work and students in the School of Graphic Arts at the State University of Iowa, founded by Lasansky. The film and sound recorded interview are also available as digital files.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, 1960s-1986
Box 1, Folder 2	Addresses and Mailing Lists, circa 1965-1985
Box 1, Folder 3	Exhibition, <i>Vaclav Vytlacil, Paintings and Constructions from 1930</i> (1975-1976), 1972-1975 <i>Includes one sound cassette</i>
Box FC 6	Film, "Printmakers", 1961 <i>1 Film reel (20 minutes; 16mm)</i> Also available as a digital video file
Box 1, Folder 4	Film, "Printmakers," Reformatted in 1992, 1961 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview with Worden Day, Sound Recording, circa 1968 <i>1 Sound cassette</i> Also available as a digital audio file
Box 1, Folder 6	Price Lists and Loan Forms, circa 1980-1986
Box 1, Folder 7	Resumes, circa 1970-1983

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1977

1 Folder (Box 1)

Worden Day's correspondence is with colleagues, curators, and museum directors including Will Barnet, Carl Zigrosser, May Sarton, Dorothy Dehner, Louise Bourgeois, Sue Fuller, among others.

Box 1, Folder 8

Correspondence, 1953-1977

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Series 3: Writings, 1955-1985

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Writings by Day date from 1955-1985 and pertain to sculpture and painting. Included are several unpublished manuscripts, autobiographical statements, and reviews for exhibitions written by Day for *Art News*.

Box 1, Folder 9	"Autobiographical Journey as an Artist", 1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Autobiographical Statements and Notes, circa 1960-1980
Box 1, Folder 11	"Experiments in Woodcut", 1961
Box 1, Folder 12	"The Found Dimension", circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 13	"My Philosophy of Teaching in the Visual Arts", circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 14	"New Expressions of Woodcut", 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 15	"'Pop Art' as an American Cultural Phenomenon", 1964
Box 1, Folder 16	Reviews, 1960-1970
Box 1, Folder 17	"The Spiritual Journey of Worden Day", circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 18	"Time of My Life, Day by Day: Studio Sketches, Ventures, Adventures, Sojourns, and Serendipities", circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 19	"What is a Print?", circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 20	"Why Painters Turn Sculptors", 1965

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1949-1983

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Printed material dates from 1949-1983 and consists primarily of exhibition catalogs featuring Day, as well as a few clippings and announcements.

Box 1, Folder 21-23 Exhibition Catalogs, 1949-1980

Box 1, Folder 24 Assorted Printed Material, 1961-1983

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Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1940-1984

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 4)

Four scrapbooks dating from 1940-1984 document Day's career through clippings, exhibition announcements, and photographs of Day, her circle of artists, and exhibition installations.

Box 4, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1940-1970
Box 1, Folder 25	Scrapbook, 1946-1952
Box 4, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1959-1984
Box 1, Folder 26	Scrapbook (disbound), 1960s-1970s

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Series 6: Photographic Material, 1935-1986

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Photographic material dates from 1935-1986 and consists of black and white, and color photographic prints, as well as slides. Subjects include Day throughout her life, with friends and artists, and working in her studio. Several folders also contain prints and slides of her paintings and sculptures. Photograph albums primarily contain additional images of Day's artwork.

Box 2, Folder 1-2	Worden Day, circa 1940-1986
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Artwork, circa 1940-1980
Box 3, Folder 1	Artwork, circa 1940-1980
Box 3, Folder 2	Photograph Albums (2), circa 1970

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Series 7: Sketchbooks, 1960-1986

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3, 5)

Three sketchbooks dating from 1960-1986 are filled with annotated drawings and sketches in pencil, pen, watercolor.

Box 5, Folder 1	Sketchbook, 1960s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1980-1986
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1980-1986

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Series 8: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1951-1992

1 Linear foot (Box 7)

The Unprocessed Addition contains further personal papers of artist Worden Day.

Box 7

Unprocessed Addition, circa 1951-1992

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