



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Annita Delano Papers, circa 1900-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received Federal support from the Collections  
Care Initiative Fund, administered by the Smithsonian American  
Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program.

2020/09/08

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Annita Delano papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1900-1975
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.delaanni
<b>Creator:</b>	Delano, Annita, 1894-
<b>Extent:</b>	2.7 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter and educator Annita Delano measure 2.7 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1975. Found are biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, writings and notes, printed material, photographs, and artwork. Writings consist of lecture notes and extensive analytical writings about European artists and works of art.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Annita Delano donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1975-1977.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 2999-3001 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The papers received a preliminary level of processing and were microfilmed on reels 2999-3001 at some point after receipt. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Annita Delano papers, circa 1900-1975. 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Annita Delano (1894-1979) was a painter, designer, and educator active in Los Angeles, California. She was also a founding member of the University of California Los Angeles Art Department.

Annita Delano began her involvement in the Los Angeles art community as the director of the Desmond Art Shop in 1917. Later, she served as both editor and managing editor of the publication *Dark and Light* (1925-1928). In 1928, she traveled to Europe where she met and became friends with Sonia and Robert Delaunay. She received the Barnes Foundation Scholarship (1930-1931) and went to Europe again where she spent some time with the Bauhaus faculty and other architects, including Joseph Albers and Richard Neutra.

Her work reflected an involvement with the environment, through theater productions and painting landscapes and murals. Delano was a founding member of the UCLA art department and remained actively involved in Southern California arts organizations until her death in 1979.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Annita Delano measure 2.7 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1975. Found are biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, writings and notes, printed material, photographs, and artwork. Writings consist of lecture notes and extensive analytical notes about European artists and works of art.

Biographical materials include resumes and scattered business records including pricelists and teaching records. Correspondence is with museums, galleries, universities, and artists. Notable correspondents include Anni Albers, Sonia and Robert Delaunay, Barbara Morgan, Richard Neutra, and Edward Weston. Writings by Delano include handwritten notes on various art subjects and typed analytical notes. Found are 69 sketches in pencil, ink, and water color by Annita Delano and an unsigned portrait of Delano.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1914-1975 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, 1909-1975 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
  - Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1920s-1960s (Boxes 1-2; 1.0 linear feet)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1920s-circa 1960s (Boxes 2-3; 0.6 linear feet)
  - Series 5: Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1960 (Box 4; 0.1 linear feet)
  - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1910-circa 1960 (Box 4, OV5; 0.2 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:

Women artists  
Women designers

Women educators  
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

Delaunay, Sonia  
Morgan, Barbara Brooks, 1900-1992  
Neutra, Richard Joseph, 1892-1970  
Weston, Edward, 1886-1958

Occupations:

Designers -- California -- Los Angeles  
Educators -- California -- Los Angeles  
Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1914-1975

#### *0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Found are awards, resumes, receipts of acceptance of works of art for exhibitions, lists, scattered teaching and school records, and travel souvenirs and receipts.

Box 1, Folder 1	Applications, Blank, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 2	Awards, 1951-1975
Box 1, Folder 3-4	CVs and Resumes, 1940s-1970
Box 1, Folder 5	Exhibition Acceptance Receipts, 1920s-1958
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Lists, of Exhibitions, Works of Art, and Prices, 1919-1960s
Box 1, Folder 8	Lists, Mailing, 1963
Box 1, Folder 9	Sabbatical Records, 1949-1951
Box 1, Folder 10	School and Teaching Records, 1914-1960
Box 1, Folder 11	Travel Souvenirs and Receipts, 1928-1930s

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1909-1975

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with museums, galleries, universities, artists, and friends. Notable correspondents include Anni Albers, Albert C. Barnes, Sonia and Robert Delaunay, Julian Ellsworth Garnsey, Norman Bel Geddes, Morris Gest, R. Vernon Hunter, Eleanor Lemaire, Edward Weston, and Helen Lloyd Wright.

Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1909-1919
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1920-1929
Box 1, Folder 14-15	Correspondence, 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Correspondence, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1970-1975
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, circa 1920s-1960s

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## Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1920s-1960s

### *1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)*

Scope and Contents: Found are writings by Delano and poems by Barbara Morgan. Writings by Delano include handwritten notes on artists and her typed analyses. Subjects include African, Chinese, Dutch, Flemish, French, German, Italian, and Spanish artists, architecture, sculpture, and illuminated manuscripts.

Box 1, Folder 22	Travel Journal, Italy, circa 1920s
Box 1, Folder 23	Poems, by Barbara Morgan, circa 1920s
Box 1, Folder 24	Lecture Notes, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 25-28	Notes, on Art, 1920s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Notes, on Art, 1920s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 4-25	Notes (Typed), on Art, 1920s-1960s

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## Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1920s-circa 1960s

### *0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)*

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include clippings and exhibition announcements and catalogs from Delano's career.

Box 2, Folder 26-29 Clippings, 1920s-1960s

Box 2, Folder 30-32 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1920s-1960s

Box 3, Folder 1-5 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1920s-1960s

Box 3, Folder 6 Journals, 1923-1927

Box 3, Folder 7 Press Releases, 1930s-1960

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## Series 5: Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1960

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 4)*

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Annita Delano and of her friends, family and childhood; of landscape classes; of designs of textiles by Sonia Delaunay and of works of art by Robert Delaunay; and of works of art.

Box 4, Folder 1	Photographs of Annita Delano, circa 1900-circa 1950
Box 4, Folder 2	Photographs of Friends, Family and Landscape Classes, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Designs by Sonia and Robert Delaunay, 1920s
Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs of Works of Art, 1930s-1950s

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## Series 6: Artwork, circa 1910-circa 1960

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 4, OV 5)*

Scope and Contents: Found are 69 sketches by Annita Delano in pencil, ink, and watercolor. Also found is one unsigned sketch of Annita Delano.

Box 4, Folder 5	Sketches, by Annita Delano, circa 1910-1960
Box 4, Folder 6	Sketch, of Annita Delano (Unsigned), circa 1960
Oversize 5	Sketches and Painted Sketches, by Annita Delano, circa 1910-1960

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