



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dorothea Henrietta Denslow Papers, 1833-circa 1950, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2023/06/07

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Dorothea Henrietta Denslow papers |
| Date: | 1833-circa 1950 |
| Identifier: | AAA.densdoro |
| Creator: | Denslow, Dorothea H. (Dorothea Henrietta), 1900-1971 |
| Extent: | 0.2 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The scattered papers of sculptor Dorothea Denslow measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1833 to circa 1950. The papers concern Denslow's family history as well as her career as a sculptor and her work at the Clay Club in New York City. Found are letters, a scrapbook with sketches and photographs, additional photographs, and printed material. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1981 by the Sculpture Center.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 2525 at 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 papers were arranged upon receipt and microfilmed onto Reel 2525. 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

Dorothea Henrietta Denslow papers, 1833-circa 1950. 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

Dorothea Denslow (1900-1971) was a sculptor and founder of the Clay Club (later Sculpture Center) in New York City, New York. Denslow studied at the Art Students League and served as director of the Sculpture Center until her retirement.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of sculptor Dorothea Denslow measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1833 to circa 1950. The papers concern Denslow's family history as well as her career as a sculptor and her work at the Clay Club in New York City. Found are letters, a scrapbook with sketches and photographs, additional photographs, and printed material.

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
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Clay Club Gallery
Sculpture Center (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Dorothea Denslow Papers, 1833-circa 1950

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes four family letters. Two are addressed to Mary Scribner dated 1833, 1853, and 1862 and are illegibly signed. Other letters are from Hilton Scribner to his daughter and son-in-law Marguerite and Edwin Frost from 1903 and 1933. A scrapbook from 1923 contains pencil sketches and photographs of works of art. It is likely the photos of sculpture are by Denslow and were exhibited at the Clay Club. Also found are loose materials from the scrapbook including a letter from Ralph Dawson, loose sketches, a mockup of a Clay Club Studio exhibition catalog cover, a Christmas card, and a clipping on Miss Anne Griggs.

Additional photographs are of Denslow, Sahl Swarz, and others. Also found are photographs of works of art and exhibitions, likely at the Sculpture Center. Many of the photos are labeled but illegible. Printed materials include clippings concerning the Scribner, Frost, and Miel families, travel souvenirs, and a booklet by the Yonkers Historical and Library Association.

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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Letters, 1833-1933 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Photographs, 1903-circa 1950 |
| Box 1, Folder 3-4 | Printed Material, 1892-1948 |
| Box 1, Folder 5-6 | Scrapbook, 1923 |

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