



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Martin Diamond Papers, 1928-2013, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Martin Diamond papers
<b>Date:</b>	1928-2013
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.diammart2
<b>Creator:</b>	Diamond, Martin
<b>Extent:</b>	3.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York art dealer, writer and teacher Martin Diamond measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1928 to 2013. The materials involve to a limited degree Diamond's wife, Harriette Diamond, co-owner and co-operator of Martin Diamond Fine Arts, Inc. Their gallery work and relationships with artists they represented are documented by writings, subject and artist files, and photographic materials. Subject files concern American abstract art, particularly the 20th century Transcendental abstract painters, and include printed materials, correspondence and photographic materials. Artists' files include similar materials and some writings by artists. Photographic materials are of artworks and exhibition installations.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1993 and 2014 by Martin Diamond.

### Related Materials

The Rutgers University Art Library in New Brunswick, New Jersey holds the "Martin and Harriet Diamond Vertical Files of American Art," which consists of 300 cubic feet of art exhibition catalogs dating from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2015 by Harriet E. Shapiro.

### Preferred Citation

Martin Diamond papers, 1928-2013. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

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## Biographical / Historical

Art dealer and writer, Martin Diamond (b. 1924) owned Martin Diamond Fine Arts, Inc. with his wife, Harriette. The gallery was established in January 1976 and operated until 1986, specializing in pre-world War II American modern and Abstract Art. It then became a private gallery operating until 1996, when the couple retired. Martin Diamond was particularly interested in Transcendental Art, an area of Abstract Art focused on the artwork's spiritual qualities. His writings include *Who Were They? My Personal Contact with 35 American Modernists Your Art History Course Never Mentioned* (1995) and his memoirs of his years as a New York City art dealer (1975-1985). Martin and Harriette Diamond presently reside in New Rochelle, New York. Artists represented by the gallery included Vaclav Vytlačil, Blanche Lazzell, and Marguerite and William Zorach.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York art dealer, writer and teacher, Martin Diamond measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1928 to 2013. The materials involve to a limited degree Diamond's wife, Harriette Diamond, co-owner and co-operator of Martin Diamond Fine Arts, Inc. Their gallery work and relationships with artists they represented are documented by writings, subject and artist files, and photographic materials. Subject files concern American abstract art, particularly the 20th century Transcendental abstract painters, and include printed materials, correspondence and photographic materials. Artists' files include similar materials and some writings by artists. Photographic materials are of artworks and exhibition installations.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 4 series. Materials are generally arranged by record type and chronologically thereafter.

- Series 1: Writings, 1995 (Box 1; 1 folder)
  - Series 2: Subject Files, 1940-2008 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
  - Series 3: Artists' Files, 1928-2013 (Boxes 1-3; 2.5 linear feet)
  - Series 4: Photographic Materials, 1988 (Boxes 3-4; 0.4 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:

Art, Abstract  
Art, American -- 20th century  
Art, Modern -- 20th century

Transcendentalism in art

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Diamond, Harriette  
Martin Diamond Fine Arts (Gallery)

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Writings, 1995

#### *1 Folder (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: *Who Were They? My Personal Contact with Thirty-Five American Modernists Your Art History Course Never Mentioned* by Martin Diamond is a 61 page text, discussing how Diamond encountered many of the artists he represented and details of their lives and work.

Box 1, Folder 1      *Who Were They? My Personal Contact with Thirty-Five American Modernists Your Art History Course Never Mentioned, 1995*

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## Series 2: Subject Files, 1940-2008

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The subject files concern American abstract art and Martin Diamond's activities to educate and promote this work, particularly that of the Transcendental painters. The materials include exhibition announcements and catalogs, clippings, business records and loan agreements regarding exhibitions. There also are letters from museums relating to Diamond's participation as a lecturer in connection with exhibitions. Museums involved include the National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, The Albuquerque Museum, the Art Gallery of Toronto, and the Boca Museum of Art in Florida as well as some New York area museums. Of particular interest is Diamond's writing explaining his relationship with Phillip Frost, who donated much of his abstract art collection to the National Museum of American Art.

Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">American Abstract Art, 1952-1990</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">American Abstract Art, 1991-2005</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	American Abstract Art, Frost Collection, 1983-1991, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Martin Diamond Lectures, 1959-1997</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	Rutgers University Library, 1989-2008, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Transcendental Painting Group, 1940-2000, undated</a>

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## Series 3: Artists' Files, 1928-2013

### 2.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Found within artists' files are photographs, transparencies and slides of artworks, exhibition announcements and catalogs, along with business and legal records of the Martin Diamond Fine Arts, Inc. There also is business correspondence with artists, museums, universities, and some greeting cards or personal letters. There is scattered biographical information about the artists as well as writings by artists, Hans Hofmann, Blanche Lazzell, Hananiah Harari and Carl Holty.

Box 1, Folder 8	Theresa Bernstein, 1985-2008
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">Emil Bisttram, 1971-1989, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	Harry Bowden, 1932-1989, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Mary Ellen Bute, 1948-2003, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Paul Cadmus, 1987-1992
Box 1, Folder 13	Arthur N. Christie, 1930-1996, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Max Arthur Cohen, 1978-1979, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Konrad Aileen Cramer, 1983-1984, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Charlotte Cushman, 1979-1989, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Stuart Davis, 1974-1976, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Eleanor De Laittre, 1979-1992, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Werner Drewes, 1979-2011, undated
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Elsie Driggs, 1934-2013, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Jacob Epstein, 1978-1986, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	<a href="#">Ed Garman, 1979-1989, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 24	<a href="#">Ed Garman, 1989-1995</a>
Box 1, Folder 25	<a href="#">Ed Garman, 1996-2004</a>
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Dwinell Grant, 1979-1982, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Robert Gribbroek, 1981, undated



Box 2, Folder 4	James Guy, 1981-1991, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	John Haley, 1981-1991, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Hananiah Harari, 1939-2002, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Lauren Harris, 1980-1987, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	<a href="#">Marsden Hartley, 1969-2007, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 9	Emanuel Herzi, 1933-1988, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Fannie Hillsmith, 1979-1982, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Hans Hofmann, 1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Carl Holty, 1972-2001, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Harry Holtzman, 1980-1987, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Charles Howard, 1983-2001, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	<a href="#">Raymond Jonson, 1979-2008, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 16	<a href="#">Raymond Jonson, 1979-2008, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 17	Frederick Kahn, circa 1990, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Paul Kelpo, 1980-1990, undated
Box 2, Folder 19-22	Blanche Lazzell, 1938-2012, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Louis Lozowick, 1973-1987, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	<a href="#">William Lumpkins, 1980-1994, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 25	<a href="#">William Lumpkins, 1980-1994, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 26	George McNeil, 1979-2010, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	George Marinko, 1983-1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 28	<a href="#">Agnes Pelton, 1983-2009</a>
Box 2, Folder 29	H. Towner Pierce, 1980-2006, undated
Box 2, Folder 30	Mark Rothko, 1984

Box 3, Folder 1	Mead Schaeffer, 1942-1984, undated
Box 3, Folder 2	Morton Schaumberg, 1980-1982, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	John Sennhauser, 1978-1998, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Louis Shanker, 1981-1991, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Esphyr Slobodkina, 1980-2002, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Alfred Stieglitz, 1972-1998, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	John Von Wicht, 1966-2007, undated
Box 3, Folder 8-12	Vaclav Vytlacil, 1928-1998, undated
Box 3, Folder 13-14	Vaclav Vytlacil Gifts, 1998-2005, undated
Box 3, Folder 15	Stuart Walker, 1981, undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Fred Whiteman, 1979-1983, undated
Box 3, Folder 17	Robert Wolff, 1978
Box 3, Folder 18	Beatrice Wood, 1982-1983, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Beckford Young, 1938-1983, undated
Box 3, Folder 20	Janet Young, 1957-1999, undated
Box 3, Folder 21	Wilfrid Zogbaum, 1977-1981, undated
Box 3, Folder 22	Marguerite and William Zorach, 1970-2009, undated

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## Series 4: Photographic Materials, 1988

### *0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)*

Scope and Contents: Photographic materials include snapshots, negatives, transparencies, and slides of representational and abstract artwork by Blanche Lazzell, many of which note titles and dates. The materials by miscellaneous artists consist of snapshots and transparencies of artworks by G.L.K. Morris, Irene Rice-Periera, Jay Van Everen, Jan Matulka, Jean Xceron, Abstract American Artists, and some unnamed works. There are slides of artworks by Emil Bisttram, Werner Drewes, John Ferren, James Guy, Carl Holty, Raymond Johnson, Blanche Lazzell, Transcendental Painting Group and Vaclav Vytacil. The greatest numbers of slides are of works by Werner Drewes and Vaclav Vytacil, followed by works by Blanche Lazzell and James Guy.

Box 3, Folder 23-25      Blanche Lazzell, 1988, undated

Box 3, Folder 26      Miscellaneous Artists, undated

Box 4, Folder 1-3      Artwork by B-V (executed 1934-2013), undated  
Slides in 3 slide file boxes.

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