



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Elsie Driggs Papers,
1924-1979, in the Archives of American Art

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Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Elsie Driggs papers
Identifier:	AAA.drigelsi
Date:	1924-1979
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Creator:	Driggs, Elsie, 1898-1992
Language:	English The collection is in English
Summary:	The scattered papers of New York City painter Elsie Driggs date from 1924 to 1979 and measure 0.2 linear feet. Included are correspondence, writings by Driggs, personal business records, printed materials, and portrait and family photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Elsie Driggs donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in several accretions between 1963 and 1980.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art holds an oral history interview with Elsie Driggs conducted by Francine Tyler October 30-December 5, 1985.

Available Formats

A portion of this collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reel D160 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

Portions of the papers were microfilmed upon receipt. In 2013, the collection was processed and a finding aid created by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Elsie Driggs papers, 1924-1979. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The Elsie Driggs papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical

Elsie Driggs (1898-1992) was a New York City Precisionist painter, curator, and art critic.

Born in Connecticut, Elsie Driggs attended the Art Students League in New York City. She traveled through Italy where she found inspiration from the works of Piero Della Francesca. After settling in New York City, she became active in the Precisionist movement, which reacted to skyscrapers and other modern building projects. Later in her career, she painted watercolors under the federal Public Works of Art project. Driggs was married to fellow artist Lee Gatch.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of New York City painter Elsie Driggs date from 1924 to 1979 and measure 0.2 linear feet. Included are correspondence, writings by Driggs, personal business records, printed materials, and portrait and family photographs.

Correspondence includes letters from the Baltimore Museum of Art, Adelyn Breeskin, Alexander Brook, Edward Bruce, Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, dealer Charles Daniel, Heckscher Museum, Montclair Art Museum, Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Newark Museum, Cynthia Sanford, Francis Steegmuller, Maurice Stern, Jenny Strauss, Walker Art Center, Wichita State University, and Yale University Art Gallery.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1924-1979 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1960 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1964-1979 (1 folder; Box 1)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1964-1978 (1 folder; Box 1)
- Series 5: Photographs, 1925-1961 (4 folders; Box 1)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Baltimore Museum of Art
Breskin, Adelyn Dohme, 1896-1986
Brook, Alexander, 1898-1980
Bruce, Edward, 1879-1943
Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts
Daniel, Charles, 1878-1971
Heckscher Museum
Montclair Art Museum
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute
Newark Museum
Sanford, Cynthia Holthusen
Steegmuller, Francis, 1906-1994
Sterne, Maurice, 1878-1957
Walker Art Center
Wichita State University
Yale University. Art Gallery

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1924-1979

3 Folders (Box 1)

Found is scattered correspondence, most of which references specific works of art by Elsie Driggs and Lee Gatch. Correspondents include: Baltimore Museum of Art, Adelyn Breeskin, Alexander Brook, Edward Bruce, Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Charles Daniel, Heckscher Museum, Montclair Art Museum, Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute Newark Musuem, Cynthia Sanford, Francis Steegmuller, Jenny Strauss, Walker Art Center, Wichita State University, and Yale University Art Gallery. Letters from Charles Daniel includes sales information. Letters from Edward Bruce urge Driggs to write her congressman to support the Public Works of Art Project, and refuse her payment of a loan.

Box 1, Folder 1	1920s-1940s, 1924-1938, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 2	1950s-1960s, 1953-1969
Box 1, Folder 3	1970s, 1970-1979

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Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1960

2 Folders (Box 1)

Found are two short stories by Elsie Driggs.

Box 1, Folder 4 "The Stones of Lee Gatch" , circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 5 "In Search of Piero Dela Francesca", circa 1960

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1964-1979

1 Folder (Box 1)

Found are two receipts for the loan and consignment of works of art by Elsie Driggs from the Provincetown Art Association and Sotheby's, respectively.

Box 1, Folder 6

Consignment and Loan Receipts, 1964-1979

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1964-1978

1 Folder (Box 1)

Found are exhibition announcements and catalogs for solo and group shows of Elsie Diggs.

Box 1, Folder 7

Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1964-1978

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Series 5: Photographs, 1925-1961

4 Folders (Box 1)

Found are portraits and snapshots of Elsie Driggs, family, friends, and homes. A photograph of friends is of the Anticoli group, including Maurice Sterne, Edward Bruce, Elsa Schmid Neumann, Louise Maloney, Gertrude Tienser-Willie, and Mario Topi.

Box 1, Folder 8	Elsie Diggs, 1925-1937
Box 1, Folder 9	Elsie Diggs and Family, circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 10	Elsie Diggs and Friends, circa 1925
Box 1, Folder 11	Homes, 1961

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