



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Edris Eckhardt Papers, circa 1940s-1982, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided
by the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation and The Walton Family Foundation.

2023 April 27

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Edris Eckhardt papers
Date:	circa 1940s-1982
Identifier:	AAA.eckhedri
Creator:	Eckhardt, Edris, 1905-1998
Extent:	0.01 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of ceramicist, glass artist, and educator Edris Eckhardt measure 0.01 linear feet and date from circa 1940s-1982. The collection provides scattered documentation of Eckhardt's career through one letter, an award nomination, a photograph of artwork, a list of artworks probably from an exhibition catalog, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Edris Eckhardt in 1983.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of scrapbooks lent for microfilming by Edris Eckhardt in 1983. The scrapbooks were microfilmed on Reel 684 before being returned to the donor and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2023 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel 2803 after receipt. The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2023 and was digitized in 2023 with funding provided by the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation and The Walton Family Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Edris Eckhardt papers, circa 1940s-1982. 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

Cleveland, Ohio ceramicist, glass artist, and educator Edris Eckhardt (1905-1998) was known for her work for the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project (WPA FAP), and her pioneering role in the field of glass sculpture.

Eckhardt served as director of the FAP's Cleveland Ceramics and Sculpture Division from 1935 until 1942, where her work included a series of ceramic sculptures illustrating children's literature for public libraries. In the late 1940s she began to explore glass making and was credited with rediscovering the ancient Egyptian art of fusing gold leaf between sheets of glass to produce gold glass. Eckhardt received two John Simon Guggenheim Awards for Fine Arts (1956, 1959), the Louis Comfort Tiffany Fellowship in 1956, and a 1971 Cleveland Arts Prize Special Citation for Distinguished Service to the Arts, which highlighted her glass sculpture work.

Eckhardt also taught at colleges and universities throughout her career and was a regular contributor to *Ceramics Monthly* from 1954 on.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist, glass artist, and educator Edris Eckhardt measure 0.01 linear feet and date from circa 1940s-1982. The collection provides scattered documentation of Eckhardt's career through one letter, an award nomination, a photograph of artwork, a list of artworks probably from an exhibition catalog, 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:

- Decorative arts
- Scrapbooks
- Women artists
- Women ceramicists
- Women sculptors

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Ohio -- Cleveland
Educators -- Ohio -- Cleveland
Glass artists -- Ohio -- Cleveland
Sculptors -- Ohio -- Cleveland

Container Listing

Series 1: Edris Eckhardt Papers, circa 1940s-1982

0.01 Linear feet (Folder 1)

Scope and Contents: A circa 1960s list of Eckhardt's artwork gives prices and notes owners who loaned works to an unnamed exhibition. One photograph is of artwork presumably by Eckhardt. One letter is from the Cleveland Museum of Art conveying a catalog for an exhibition not found in the papers. A nomination for an award is from the Ohio Arts Council. The rest of the collection consists of printed material including two exhibition catalogs with one for a retrospective at Ohio's Beachwood Museum, a newsletter entry announcing Eckhardt's selection for a 1977 Outstanding Craft Award, and clippings from circa 1940s-1982 documenting Eckhardt's exhibitions, awards, and other achievements throughout her career.

Folder 1 [Edris Eckhardt Papers, circa 1940s-1982](#)

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