



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Margy Lee Elspass papers relating to Maxwell S. Simpson, 1963-1984, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2023/08/01

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Margy Lee Elspass papers relating to Maxwell S. Simpson
Date:	1963-1984
Identifier:	AAA.elspmarg
Creator:	Elspass, Margy Lee, 1925-
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Margy Lee Elspass regarding Maxwell Stewart Simpson measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1963 to 1984. The collection focuses on Elspass's study of art and friendship with Maxwell Simpson. Found are letters, five diaries, photographs, printed material, and writings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1990 by Margy Lee Elspass, who took private painting lessons from Maxwell Stewart Simpson.

Processing Information

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

Margy Lee Elspass papers relating to Maxwell S. Simpson, 1963-1984. 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

Margy Lee Elspass (1925-) was a painter and author in New Jersey and North Carolina. She studied painting with Maxwell Stewart Simpson. Later she wrote a dictionary of art terms.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Margy Lee Elspass regarding Maxwell Stewart Simpson measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1963 to 1984. The collection focuses on Elspass's study of art and friendship with Maxwell Simpson. Found are letters, five diaries, photographs, printed material, and writings.

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:

Types of Materials:

Diaries

Names:

Simpson, Maxwell Stewart, 1896-1964

Occupations:

Authors -- New Jersey

Authors -- North Carolina

Painters -- New Jersey

Painters -- North Carolina

Container Listing

Series 1: Margy Lee Elspass Papers, 1963-1984

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with Maxwell Stewart Simpson regarding Elspass's art lessons and their friendship. Additional letters are from Mary Ellen Davison-Truman, Simpson's niece. Five diaries contain entries in which Elspass describes Simpson's art lessons, the school, other students, and her own progress in art. The bulk of the photographs are of Maxwell Stewart Simpson and his artwork, including pieces owned by Elspass. Also found is one portrait of Margy Lee Elspass. Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and flyers for art classes, and concern Simpson and other artists. An article by Elspass describes her memories of Simpson. Also found is a typescript of a poem about Simpson by his mother.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1969-1986
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Box 1, Folder 2-3	Diaries, 1970-1978
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Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs, 1970-circa 1980
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Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, 1963-1984
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Box 1, Folder 6	Writings, circa 1984
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