



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Letters Relating to  
Max Ernst's American Citizenship Status,  
circa 1957, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Letters relating to Max Ernst's American citizenship status
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1957
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ernsmax
<b>Creator:</b>	Ernst, Max, 1891-1976 Tanning, Dorothea, 1910-2012
<b>Extent:</b>	0.01 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The letters relating to painter and sculptor Max Ernst's American citizenship status measure 0.01 linear feet and date from circa 1957. Correspondence is mainly between Ernst's wife Dorothea (Tanning) and attorney John Frank regarding Max Ernst's efforts to retain American citizenship, which was jeopardized by the McCarren Act and Ernst's extended periods of residence abroad. Many of the letters provide details of Ernst's career and give a chronology of his travels. Included is one letter from Max Ernst to John Frank. All of the documents in this collection are photocopies.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Letters relating to Max Ernst's American citizenship status were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1982 by Jimmy Ernst, son of Max Ernst.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Letters Relating to Max Ernst's American Citizenship Status, circa 1957. 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. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Max Ernst (1891-1976) was a German Surrealist painter and sculptor. He moved to New York in 1941, and married Dorothea Tanning in California in 1946. They lived in Sedona, Arizona, until 1953, after which they primarily lived in France.

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## Scope and Contents

The letters relating to painter and sculptor Max Ernst's American citizenship status measure 0.01 linear feet and date from circa 1957. Correspondence is mainly between Ernst's wife Dorothea (Tanning) and attorney John Frank regarding Max Ernst's efforts to retain American citizenship, which was jeopardized by the McCarran Act and Ernst's extended periods of residence abroad. Many of the letters provide details of Ernst's career and give a chronology of his travels. Included is one letter from Max Ernst to John Frank. All of the documents in this collection are photocopies.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Letters Relating to Max Ernst's American Citizenship Status, circa 1957 (0.01 linear feet; 1 folder)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Frank, John Paul, 1917-

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Letters Relating to Max Ernst's American Citizenship Status, circa 1957

*0.01 Linear feet (1 folder)*

Scope and Contents: This series consists of photocopies of correspondence and supporting documents regarding Max Ernst's American citizenship status. Correspondence is mainly between Ernst's wife Dorothea (Tanning) and attorney John Frank regarding Max Ernst's efforts to retain American citizenship, which was jeopardized by the McCarren Act and Ernst's extended periods of residence abroad. Many of the letters provide details of Ernst's career and give a chronology of his travels. Included is one letter from Max Ernst to John Frank.

Folder 1 [Letters Relating to Max Ernst's American Citizenship Status, circa 1957](#)

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