



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Clara Fasano papers, circa 1920-1979, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Clara Fasano papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1920-1979
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.fasaclar
<b>Creator:</b>	Fasano, Clara, 1900-1990
<b>Extent:</b>	2.7 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	This collection is in English and Italian.
<b>Summary:</b>	The Clara Fasano papers are 2.7 linear feet and date from circa 1920-1979. They illustrate Fasano's career as a sculptor in both Cervaro, Italy and New York City through biographical materials, correspondence, writings and exhibition and gallery files, printed and photographic materials, and artwork.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Clara Fasano papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Clara Fasano in 1972 and 1978. Two portraits of Fasano by Joseph Stella received with the papers were transferred to the National Museum of American Art.

### Related Materials

Clara Fasano's papers can also be found in Syracuse University's collections.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 862-863 and 906 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Clara Fasano papers, circa 1920-1979 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Clara Fasano (1900-1990) was a sculptor who worked primarily in New York City. She was born in Castellaneta, Italy to a long line of sculptors and carvers. She specialized in terracotta figures with religious and allegorical themes. Her family immigrated to the United States when Fasano was three years old where her father earned a living as an architectural ornamentor in New York City. In 1936 Fasano married Jean De Marco, a fellow sculptor, and moved to Greenwich Village.

Fasano studied at the Cooper Union Art School, the Art Students League, and Adelphi College in New York City and at the Académie Colarossi and Academie Julian in Paris. She also studied under Arturo Dazzi in Rome. Fasano taught art at the Dalton School in New York City and at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. In the 1930s, she began to exhibit her work in New York City.

During the Great Depression Fasano was one of the first sculptors to work on the Public Works of Art Project under the New Deal. She created a plaque in 1934 commemorating Governor Donegan for the Port Richmond Highschool on Staten Island. Fasano also worked on the Federal Art Project under which she created a plaster relief titled "The Family" for the Middleport, Ohio post office.

Fasano was a member of the Sculptors Guild and participated in its 1940 and 1941 exhibitions and was awarded the Daniel Chester French medal in 1965 from the National Academy of Design. She was also awarded the Dessie Greer prize in 1968. Other organizations she was a member of are the National Sculpture Society, the Audubon Artists, and the National Association of Women Artists. Fasano died in 1990.

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## Scope and Contents

The Clara Fasano papers measure 2.7 linear feet and date from circa 1920-1979. Biographical materials include Fasano's resume, an appointment book for 1971, materials related to *Who's Who in America*, and various awards and certificates. Correspondence is in English and Italian and is with Fasano's husband Jean De Marco, Leo Cherne, the Archives of American Art, and others. Writings include a diary and lists of institutional gifts to the Archives of American Art and Syracuse University. Exhibition and gallery files consist of exhibition materials including those related to the National Academy of Design, National Academy of Sculpture, and a photo album for the Stituto Italiano di Cultura Traveling Exhibition. Printed material includes membership booklets, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and various publications featuring Fasano's artwork. Photographic material consists of photographs of Fasano and her artwork, as well as her friends. Artwork includes designs for the Federal Art Project, figure drawings, sketches, and a self-portrait.

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## Arrangement

This collection is composed of seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-1979 (.3 Linear feet: Boxes 1 and 4)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1939-1978 (.8 Linear feet: Box 1)

- Series 3: Writings, circa 1955-1968 (.1 Linear feet: Box 2)
  - Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, circa 1941-1978 (.2 Linear feet: Box 2)
  - Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1933-1976 (.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
  - Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1920-1972 (.6 Linear feet: Boxes 2-3)
  - Series 7: Artwork, circa 1920-1972 (.4 Linear feet: Boxes 3-4)
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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:

Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century  
Women artists  
Women sculptors

### Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Sketchbooks

### Names:

United States. Works Progress Administration

### Occupations:

Sculptors -- Italy  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-1979

*.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1 and 4)*

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Fasano's resume, an appointment book, a gift from the National Sculpture Society, items relating to Fasano's dog, and various awards and certificates.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, circa 1965-1979
Box 1, Folder 2	Appointment Book, circa 1971
Box 1, Folder 3	National Sculpture Review, Engraved Wooden Block, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Who's Who in America, circa 1967-1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Dog License, Pom Pom, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 6	Awards and Certificates, circa 1920-1952
Box 4, Folder 1	Awards and Certificates, circa 1933-1968

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1939-1978

### .8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is in English and Italian with the Archives of American Art, Jean De Marco, Leo Cherne, and others.

Box 1, Folder 7	General, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 8	General, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 9	General, circa 1952
Box 1, Folder 10	General, circa 1953
Box 1, Folder 11	General, circa 1956
Box 1, Folder 12	General, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 13	General, circa 1968
Box 1, Folder 14	General, circa 1969
Box 1, Folder 15	General, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 16	General, circa 1971
Box 1, Folder 17	General, circa 1972
Box 1, Folder 18-19	General, circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 20	General, circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 21-22	General, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 23-24	General, circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 25-26	General, circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 27	General, circa 1978
Box 1, Folder 28	Archives of American Art, circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 29	Jean De Marco, circa 1972-1973
Box 1, Folder 30	Leo Cherne, circa 1971-1977

Box 1, Folder 31      The Society of Medalists, circa 1975

Box 1, Folder 32-37      Holiday Cards, circa 1972-1978

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## Series 3: Writings, circa 1955-1968

### .1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include a diary, a list of institutional gifts to the Archives of American Art and Syracuse University, and various notes.

Box 2, Folder 1	Diary, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 2	Syracuse University and Archives of American Art, List of Institutional Gifts, circa 1962-1964
Box 2, Folder 3	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1968

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## Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, circa 1941-1978

### .2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition and gallery files consist of various exhibition materials including those related to the National Academy of Design, National Academy of Sculpture, and a photo album for the Stituto Italiano di Cultura Traveling Exhibition.

Box 2, Folder 4	The American Academy of Arts and Letters (1952), circa 1952
Box 2, Folder 5	Church of the Ascension, Second Annual Exhibition (1954), circa 1954
Box 2, Folder 6	Knickerbocker Artists (1954), circa 1953-1954
Box 2, Folder 7	National Academy of Design (1977), circa 1976-1978
Box 2, Folder 8	National Sculpture Society (1941), circa 1941-1952
Box 2, Folder 9	Stituto Italiano di Cultura Traveling Exhibition, Album, circa 1976

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## Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1933-1976

### .3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes membership booklets, exhibition announcements and catalogs, various newsletters and news clippings, and publications featuring Fasano's artwork.

Box 2, Folder 10          Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, booklet, circa 1959

Box 2, Folder 11          National Sculpture Society, Membership Booklets, circa 1965-1976

Box 2, Folder 12          Exhibition Announcements, circa 1940-1972

Box 2, Folder 13-14      Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1946-1976

Box 2, Folder 15          Newsletters, circa 1955-1976

Box 2, Folder 16          Newspaper Clippings, circa 1933-1972

Box 2, Folder 17          Art Publications, Bound, circa 1957-1959

Box 2, Folder 18          Publications Featuring Artwork, circa 1955-1969

Box 2, Folder 19          Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1957-1960

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## Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1920-1972

### .6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic materials consist of photographs of Fasano, her friends, and her artwork.

Box 2, Folder 20	Photographs of Clara Fasano, circa 1920-1964
Box 2, Folder 21	Personal Photographs, circa 1921-1966
Box 2, Folder 22-27	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1920-1972
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Photographs of Artwork, Indexed, circa 1920-1972

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## Series 7: Artwork, circa 1920-1972

.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes Fasano's designs for the Federal Art Project and various sketches including those of animals, a self portrait, and figure drawings.

Box 3, Folder 3	Federal Art Project, Designs, circa 1933-1934
Box 3, Folder 4-7	Sketches, circa 1920-1972
Box 4, Folder 2-5	Figure Drawings, circa 1920

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