



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Herbert Ferber papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Herbert Ferber papers
Identifier:	AAA.ferbherb
Date:	1932-1987
Creator:	Ferber, Herbert, 1906-1991
Extent:	1 Linear foot ((on 6 microfilm reels)) 0.8 Linear feet (Addition)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels N69/133-136 and reel N70/39 lent by Herbert Ferber 1969-1970; the unmicrofilmed material was donated 1991 by Herbert Ferber. The donor of the typescript on reel 2804 is unspecified.

Location of Originals

Reels N69/133-N69/136 and N70/39: Originals returned to lender, Herbert Ferber, after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels N69/133-N69/136, N70/39, and 2804 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of 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.

Biographical / Historical

Painter and environmental sculptor; New York, N.Y. d. 1991. Ferber was also a dentist, who practiced under the name Herbert Ferber Silvers.

Scope and Contents

Personal and business correspondence; photographs; writings; biographical materials; and printed materials.

Scope and Contents

REELS N69/133-N69/136: Personal correspondence, including letters and postcards from friends Wayne Anderson, composer Richard Arnell, E. Leontief, Barnett Newman, Robert Motherwell, Mark Rothko and others; business correspondence, including letters from galleries and universities, regarding exhibitions, sculpture contracts and invitations for lecture, his donation of his paper to Syracuse University, and teaching positions; ground plans, estimates, and correspondence regarding Ferber's "environmental sculpture" for Harlow Carpenter and Bundy Gallery and the ensuing case against them;

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contract and letters concerning the courtyard sculpture for the John F. Kennedy GSA building in Boston; letters regarding insurance and damage done to works lent for exhibition through the Walker Art Center; writings by Ferber for various journals including art journals and a scientific journal (using an pseudonym, Herbert F. Silver, D.D.S.); drafts of lectures given at art institutions and colleges; a catalog raisonne; transcript of an interview with Ferber; licenses, degrees and diplomas; a book, THREE AMERICAN SCULPTORS: FERBER, HARE, LASSAW, by E.C. Goossen, Robert Goldwater, and Irving Sandler; sketchbooks, 1933-1937; clippings; exhibition catalogs and announcements; scrapbook relating to his career and work at Midtown Galleries, New York.

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REEL N/70-39: Photographs of Ferber at work and of his sculptures.

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REEL 2804: A typescript, "Sculpture as Environment," by Ferber, January 1960.

Scope and Contents

ADDITION: Biographical materials; correspondence, 1979-1980; records concerning Williams College exhibition, 1975-1980; writings, 1970-1986; exhibition catalogs and announcements; photographs, including one of Ferber ca. 1935, one of Helen Frankenthaler and Andrew Heiskell, and one of a painting signed on back by Beck Balken. Additional records concerning his career as a dentist include diplomas and certificates, published articles on dental subjects by Dr. Silvers, and letters of appointment to the dental school faculty, Columbia University, 1980-1985.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Environment (Art)
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Dentists -- New York (State) -- New York
Environmental artists -- New York (State) -- New York