



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bernice Fisher Papers, 1939-1942, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bernice Fisher papers
Date:	1939-1942
Identifier:	AAA.fishbern
Creator:	Fisher, Bernice
Extent:	1 Microfilm reel
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and ceramicist Bernice Fisher date from 1939 to 1942. Found are records relating to Fisher's participation in the Federal Art Project, Works Progress Administration including a letter and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were lent for microfilming 1965 by Bernice Fisher and the collection was returned after filming.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender, Bernice Fisher, after microfilming.

Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reels NDA27. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel NDA27 and returned to Bernice Fisher after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2025 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Bernice Fisher papers, 1939-1942. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

Bernice Fisher Banks (1906-1981) was a ceramicist and painter in San Francisco, California. Fisher painted canvases and created ceramics for the Federal Art Project, Works Progress Administration.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and ceramicist Bernice Fisher date from 1939 to 1942. Found are records relating to Fisher's participation in the Federal Art Project, Works Progress Administration including a letter and photographs.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is 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:

- Federal aid to the arts
- New Deal, 1933-1939
- Women artists
- Women ceramicists
- Women painters

Names:

- Federal Art Project (Calif.)

Occupations:

- Ceramicists -- California -- San Francisco
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Bernice Fisher Papers, 1939-1942

Scope and Contents: Found is a letter from Joseph Allen of the Federal Art Project of Northern California regarding Fisher's terra cotta statues at the San Jose School District; and four photographs including one of Fisher working with ceramics and three of her works of art.

Reel NDA27.fisher, [Letter and Photographs, 1939-1942](#)
Frame 484-493

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