



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Allan Randall Freelon Papers, 1830-2018, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews

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was provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Allan Randall Freelon papers
Date:	1830-2018
Identifier:	AAA.freealla
Creator:	Freelon, Allan Randall, 1895-1960
Extent:	4.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of African American painter and educator Allan Randall Freelon measure 4.4 linear feet and date from 1830 to 2018. The collection contains biographical material, including daily diaries and family history material; correspondence; writings; material related to professional activities, including exhibitions and school visits; personal business records, including estate records; printed material; scrapbooks; photographic material; and artwork and artifacts.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2019 by Nnenna and Maya Freelon as part of the Archives' African American Collecting Initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Nnenna is the widow of Phil Freelon, Allan Randall Freelon's grandson. Maya Freelon is Nnenna and Phil's daughter.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2021 with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Allan Randall Freelon papers, 1830-2018. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is temporarily closed to researchers due to archival processing and digitization. For more information, please contact Reference Services.

Access to nitrate negatives is restricted. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Allan Randall Freelon Sr. (1895-1960) was painter and educator in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania known for his impressionist paintings.

Freelon studied at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (now the University of the Arts), the University of Pennsylvania, and the Tyler School of Art of Temple University. He also spent summers studying painting with Hugh Breckenridge in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

His work was included in exhibitions at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, traveling exhibitions with the William E. Harmon Foundation, the Albright-Knox Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, the Howard University Gallery of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He was also one of seven Black artists included in the exhibition *Art Commentary on Lynching*, organized by the NAACP.

Freelon taught art in the Philadelphia public school system and in 1921 was appointed as assistant director of art education. In 1939 he was named the special assistant to the director of art in the Philadelphia public schools. Freelon also taught painting at Windy Crest, his studio in Telford, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

The papers of African American painter and educator Allan Randall Freelon measure 4.4 linear feet and date from 1830 to 2018. The collection contains biographical material, including address lists, certificates, daily diaries, and family history material; family correspondence and professional correspondence with galleries and schools; writings, including Freelon's MFA thesis, notecards and notebooks; and material related to professional activities, including exhibitions and school visits. Also included are personal business records, which contain estate records, auction records, including audiovisual records, condition reports, property records, and sale records; printed material, including clippings, magazines, newsletters, and exhibition catalogs and announcements; and scrapbooks, which primarily include photographic material, correspondence, and printed material. Photographic materials include slides, photographs, and negatives; and artwork and artifacts include sketchbooks, sketches, and one souvenir spoon from the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition of 1926.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as nine series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1919, circa 1938-2001 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1878-1894, 1920-1968, 1980-2010 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1879-1880, 1922-1959, undated (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Professional Activities, circa 1935-1957, 2000-2005 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1856-1866, 1928-1957, 1995-2018 (Boxes 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1849, 1910, 1926-1961, 1990-2015, undated (Box 2, Box 4; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1830-1960 (Box 2, Boxes 4-5; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1880-1990s (Boxes 2-3, Box 6, OV 7; 1.4 linear feet)
- Series 9: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1912, 1926-1949, undated (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- African American educators
- African American painters
- Impressionism (Art)

Types of Materials:

- Diaries
- Drawings
- Scrapbooks

Occupations:

- Educators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1919, 1938-2001

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The biographical material series contains address lists; biographies; certificates; Allan Randall Freelon's daily diaries; and material related to the Freelon family history.

Box 1, Folder 1	Addresses, 1957, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographies, circa 1938-circa 1948 Notes: Includes biographies and lists of works compiled by Sullivan Memorial Library and the Race Relations Committee of the American Friends Service Committee. Also includes Artists Equity card.
Box 1, Folder 3	Certificates, 1919, 1942-1980, 2001 Notes: Includes marriage and death certificates for Allan Randall Freelon Sr. and Allan Randall Freelon Jr. and certificates for trees planted in Allan Randall Freelon's memory. Also includes certificate of merit awarded to Maritza Kouzmanoff.
Box 1, Folder 4	Daily Diary, 1947
Box 1, Folder 5	Daily Diary, 1953
Box 1, Folder 6	Family History Material, 1952-1960, 1990-2001, undated Notes: Includes photocopy of Allan Randall Freelon Sr. statement of service and Allan Randall Freelon Jr. CV. Also includes memorial program and burial information.
Box 1, Folder 7	Temple University, Commencement Program and Tyler School of Fine Arts Alumni Questionnaire, 1943, 1956

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1878-1894, 1920-1968, 1980-2010

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series consists primarily of Allan Randall Freelon's professional correspondence with galleries, museums, and Philadelphia area schools. Also included is correspondence with family, Nathaniel Dett, and a letter from W. E. B. Du Bois.

Box 1, Folder 8	American Friends Service Committee, 1948
Box 1, Folder 9	Bland Family, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 10	Nathaniel Dett, 1927-1937
Box 1, Folder 11	W. E. B. Du Bois, 1927
Box 1, Folder 12	Allan Randall Freelon, 1944-1958 Notes: Primarily carbon copies of correspondence with school administrators in his role as special assistant to the director of art in the Philadelphia public schools.
Box 1, Folder 13	Allan R. Freelon to Marie C. Freelon, 1928 Notes: Also includes one short letter to Allan R. Freelon, Jr.
Box 1, Folder 14	Allan Freelon to John Kouzmanoff, 1953-1955 Notes: Includes photograph.
Box 1, Folder 15	Lewis Tanner Moore, Correspondence Regarding Divorce, 1950-1953
Box 1, Folder 16	Philadelphia Area Schools, 1930-1959
Box 1, Folder 17	School District of Philadelphia, 1938-1960
Box 1, Folder 18	Unidentified, First Names, and Fragments, 1930-1959, 1973-2001, undated Notes: Also includes envelopes
Box 1, Folder 19	A-C, 1878, 1920-1960, 1997
Box 1, Folder 20	D-F, 1894, 1927-1960, 1980-2000
Box 1, Folder 21	G-L, 1927-1963
Box 1, Folder 22	M-R, 1920-1965, 1997-2006
Box 1, Folder 23	S-W, 1920-1968, 1995-2010

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Series 3: Writings, 1879-1880, 1922-1959

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are Allan Randall Freelon's MFA thesis, a notebook, notes, writings on art, and writings by others.

Box 1, Folder 24	The Art of Composition, G. Balande, 1932
Box 1, Folder 25	Book Reviews, circa 1952
Box 1, Folder 26	Can Art Appreciation and Art History Be Taught Successfully By One Who Does Not Practice Creative Art Himself? MFA Thesis, 1943
Box 1, Folder 27	Excerpts and Unidentified Writings, 1948, undated
Box 1, Folder 28	Notebook, 1932 Notes: Also contains some sketches.
Box 1, Folder 29	Notecards, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Notes, 1944-circa 1950s, undated Notes: Includes typescript notes on art, lists of prizes and available models, and a recipe.
Box 1, Folder 31	Other Writings, 1922, 1957, undated Notes: Includes a series of case reports in clinical psychology, a teaching evaluation, and "Minimum requirements for art majors in three dimensional design."
Box 1, Folder 32	Poem, Lynched by Frank Ankenbrand, Jr., undated
Box 1, Folder 33	Poetry by Antoinette Rapposelli, circa 1947
Box 1, Folder 34	Reports and Speeches by Others, 1943-1959, undated Notes: Includes "The Negro and the War" by Charles Moore, "A Brief History of the Negro Race in America" by Alfred Fontana, "Propaganda Against the Negro" by Perry C. Smith, "The Migration of the Negro" by Tanner G. Duckrey, "Role of the Teacher in the Community" by E. Washington Rhodes, and a speech by W. E. B. Du Bois.
Box 1, Folder 35	Travel Diary, 1879-1880 Notes: Contains account of travel throughout Europe, including Paris, Florence, Venice, Geneva, and London and includes sketches.

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Series 4: Professional Activities, circa 1935-1957, 2000-2005

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are materials related to exhibitions of Allan Randall Freelon's paintings, including posthumous exhibitions, materials related to his work with the art department, and material related to committee work.

Box 1, Folder 36-37	Allan Freelon: Pioneer Impressionist (2004), North Carolina Central University, 2000-2005 Notes: Includes photocopies of printed material found elsewhere in the collection used for planning the exhibition.
Box 1, Folder 38	Art Commentary on Lynching (1935) Exhibition Organized by the NAACP, 1935-1936 Notes: Notations indicate that materials in this folder are photocopies from collections at the Library of Congress.
Box 1, Folder 39	Art Department Contacts and Committees, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 40	Art Room Equipment, Lists and Design, 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 41	Bureau for Colored Children and Bureau for Child Care, 1954-1957 Notes: Includes "The Growth and Development of the Bureau for Colored Children" thesis by Edith Josephine Johnson.
Box 1, Folder 42	Greenwich Art Class Bibliography, 1952
Box 1, Folder 43	Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (ICCASP) Philadelphia Chapter Meeting Minutes and Financial Report, 1946
Box 1, Folder 44	Portrait of the Anthracite Industry (1953), Lehigh Art Alliance, 1953-1954
Box 1, Folder 45	Schedule of School Visits, 1947-1948
Box 1, Folder 46	Work Projects Administration War Services Project Product Allocation Form, 1943

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Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1856-1866, 1928-1957, 1995-2018

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records contain material related to the Allan Randall Freelon Sr. Estate, as well as the Allan Randall Freelon Jr. Estate, including audiovisual records. Also included are consignment agreements, condition reports, receipts, property records, and sales records.

Box 1, Folder 47	Allan Randall Freelon Estate, Auction, 1997 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: Includes auction catalog, clippings, snapshots, and video recording.
Box 1, Folder 48	Allan Randall Freelon Estate, Material Regarding Missing Paintings, 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 49-50	Allan Randall Freelon, Jr. Estate Records, 2001-2005
Box 2, Folder 1	Appraisal and Condition Reports, 1995, 2005-2011 Notes: Includes images of artwork with notations regarding conservation concerns.
Box 2, Folder 2	Art Insurance, 2004-2005 Notes: Includes loan agreement form from North Carolina A & T University Galleries, photographs of artwork, and condition reports.
Box 2, Folder 3	Collection of Phil and Nnenna Freelon, circa 1999 Notes: Includes printed material related to Phil and Nnenna.
Box 2, Folder 4	Consignment Agreements, 2006
Box 2, Folder 5	Kathy Kouzmanoff Background on Allan Freelon Collection, 2018
Box 2, Folder 6	Kathy Kouzmanoff Compiled Inventory of Allan Freelon Library, 1996-1999
Box 2, Folder 7	Publication Request, 2014
Box 2, Folder 8	Property Records, 1856-1866, 1937, 1952 Notes: Includes early deed and envelope of Confederate money.
Box 2, Folder 9	Receipts, 1949-1957
Box 2, Folder 10	Retirement Account Statements, 1950-1954
Box 2, Folder 11	Sales Ledger, 1928-1937 Notes: Also includes painting label.

Box 2, Folder 12

Sales Records, 1948, 1957, 2005-2006

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1849, 1910, 1926-1961, 1990-2015

0.6 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: This series includes books, clippings, newsletters and bulletins, magazines, pamphlets, and announcements and catalogs for exhibitions of Allan Randall Freelon's work.

Box 2, Folder 13	Clippings, 1928-1960, 1996-2004
Box 4, Folder 1	Oversize Clippings, 1941, 1960, 1990-2004
Box 2, Folder 14	Exhibition and Event Announcements and Invitations, 1936, 1953, 2004-2015
Box 2, Folder 15	Exhibition and Event Catalogs, 1928-1947
Box 2, Folder 16	Exhibition and Event Catalogs, 1956-1959, 1997, 2004, undated Notes: Includes Artists Equity Association Directory of Open Exhibitions and Catalogue of Casts, Photographs and Publications of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania.
Box 2, Folder 17	Exhibition and Event Programs and Brochures, 1928, 1942-1958, 2005 Notes: Includes program for memorial of Tanner Grant Duckrey.
Box 2, Folder 18	Exhibition Material Photocopies, 1936-1961
Box 2, Folder 19	Invitation to the Arts by Jack Bookbinder, 1944
Box 2, Folder 20	Hymns for the Use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1849
Box 2, Folder 21	Landscape and Figure Composition by Sadakichi Hartmann (Sidney Allan), 1910 Notes: Signed Allan Randall Freelon July 29, 1913.
Box 2, Folder 22	Magazines and Journals, 1926, 1947-1948, 2000 Notes: Includes reprinted excerpted from journals.
Box 2, Folder 23	Magazines and Journals, Black Opals, 1927-1928
Box 2, Folder 24	Magazines and Journals, The Lib-Man, 1928-1929
Box 2, Folder 25	Miscellaneous Printed Material, undated Notes: Includes flyers, business cards, menu, and brochure for summer painting courses at Windy Crest, Freelon's studio.
Box 2, Folder 26	Newsletters and Bulletins, 1934-1959, 2006
Box 2, Folder 27	Pamphlets, 1945
Box 2, Folder 28	Press Releases, 1943, 2015

Box 2, Folder 29 Programs and Playbills, 1928-1955, undated

Box 2, Folder 30 W. P. A. Technical Series Art Circular, 1938-1940
Notes: Circulars include *Carborundum Print*, *Fresco Painting*, and
Index of American Design.

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Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1830-1960

0.8 Linear feet (Box 2, Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: This series contains three scrapbooks, one poetry scrapbook, and scrapbook pages. The scrapbooks primarily contain photographs, correspondence, and printed material. One scrapbook includes correspondence expressing condolences to Allan Randall Freelon's wife and family after his death.

Box 2, Folder 31	Poetry Scrapbook, circa 1930s Notes: Book of poetry accompanied by artwork and includes scrapbook pages, correspondence, and printed material laid in.
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1830-1929 Notes: Includes loose photographs in front and back.
Box 5, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1923-1960
Box 4, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1928-1960
Box 2, Folder 32	Scrapbook, 1931-1940 Notes: Some materials inserted at front and back and some appear to be removed. Primarily contains printed material and correspondence.
Box 2, Folder 33	Scrapbook Pages and Material, 1927-1959

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Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1880-1990s

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, Box 6, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: The photographic materials series contains photographs, panoramic prints, negatives, slides, and snapshots. Also included is one glass plate ambrotype. Subjects depicted in these materials include Allan Randall Freelon's works of art; his Telford, Pennsylvania studio, Windy Crest; cities and harbors, possibly as reference for paintings; and family, and friends.

Box 2, Folder 34	Negatives and Contact Sheets
	Negatives, Nitrate, undated Notes: Access to nitrate negatives is restricted.
Box 2, Folder 35	Photographs — Artwork, Models, and Studio, undated
Box 2, Folder 36	Photographs — Artwork, Studio, Study Shots, Telford, circa 1959, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs — Artwork, Studio, Telford, Family, circa 1959
Box 3, Folder 2	Photographs — Envelopes 68635-68643, undated Notes: Nitrate negatives housed separately. Photographs depict seascapes, harbor, artwork, and nude models.
Box 3, Folder 3	Photographs — Envelopes 68644-68655, undated Notes: Nitrate negatives housed separately. Photos depict street scenes, seascapes, harbor, artwork, individuals, and nude models.
Box 3, Folder 4	Photographs — Family, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Photographs — Family and Artwork, circa 1880-circa 1930
Item MGP6	Photographs — Family and Other Individuals, undated
Oversize 7	Oversize Photographs — Family and Other Individuals, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Photographs — Freelon, Family, and Other Individuals, undated
Box 6	Photographs — Panoramic Prints, 1918 Notes: Prints are rolled.
Oversize 7	Photographs — Panoramic Prints, circa 1918
Box 3, Folder 7-11	Photographs, before 1960 Notes: Folder 11 includes photographs of Henry O. Tanner paintings and photocopies of photographs.
Box 3, Folder 12-16	Slides, circa 1940s-1990s

Box 3, Folder 17

Snapshots, 1977-2006, undated

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Series 9: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1912, 1926-1949

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are Allan Randall Freelon's sketchbooks, sketches, sketches by students, a holiday print from Windy Crest, and a Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition souvenir spoon.

Box 3, Folder 18	Print, Greetings from Windy Crest, 1939
Box 3, Folder 19	Sketchbook, circa 1912
Box 3, Folder 20	Sketchbook, undated
Box 3, Folder 21	Sketches, Miscellaneous, undated
Box 3, Folder 22	Sketches, Nudes, circa 1932
Box 3, Folder 23	Sketches by Students, 1949
Box 3, Folder 24	Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition Souvenir Spoon, 1926

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