



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Helen Gerardia Papers, circa 1945-1988, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Helen Gerardia papers
Date:	circa 1945-1988
Identifier:	AAA.gerahele
Creator:	Gerardia, Helen, 1903-1988
Extent:	2.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Helen Gerardia papers measure 2.4 linear feet and date from circa 1945-1988. They illustrate her career through biographical and printed materials, scrapbooks, and photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Materials on reel 2812 were lent for microfilming by Gerardia in 1961. Scrapbooks on reels 59, 60 and 80 were lent by Gerardia for microfilming in 1971 and nine were donated in 1981 along with another scrapbook (1971-1973). The remainder of the scrapbooks and papers were donated in 1989 by Gerardia's estate.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reels 59-60, 80, and 2812) including scrapbooks, a five-page resume, and samples of Gerardia's signature. Loaned materials were returned to the donor and later donated.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 59-60, 80, and 2812 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

Helen Gerardia papers, circa 1945-1988, 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

Helen Gerardia (1903-1988) was a painter and printmaker who worked primarily in New York.

Gerardia was born in Ekaterinoslav, in what was then the Russian Empire, and immigrated to the United States to study under Hans Hofmann from 1946-1947. During her career she engaged in lithography and etching, while focusing on paintings as a medium. She was a participant in the abstract expressionist movement and during the 1950s shifted more towards the cubism movement. She frequently emphasized negative space in her works. Gerardia was a member of the Vectors Artist Group, and from 1967-1969 she was president of the American Society of Contemporary Artists. She exhibited her work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among other places. Gerardia died in 1988 in New York.

Scope and Contents

The Helen Gerardia papers measure 2.4 linear feet and date from circa 1945-1988. Biographical materials include Gerardia's resume, samples of her signature, miscellaneous correspondence to and from Gerardia with museums, galleries, and business colleagues, and biographical information for the publication *Who's Who in American Art*. Printed material consists of exhibition announcements and catalogs, news clippings, and various newsletters. Scrapbooks include various clippings, exhibition announcements, fliers, photographs, and other printed materials. Photographic material consists of photographs of Gerardia, the Yaddo Fellowship, and of Gerardia's artwork.

Arrangement

This collection contains four series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1954-1973 (.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1953-1971 (.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 3: Scrapbooks, circa 1951-1988 (1.7 Linear feet: Boxes 1-6)
 - Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1945-1975 (.5 Linear feet: Boxes 2 and 7)
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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:

Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York
Women artists
Women painters
Women printmakers

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1954-1973

.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include Gerardia's resume, samples of her signature, miscellaneous correspondence to and from Gerardia with museums, galleries, and business colleagues, and biographical information for the publication *Who's Who in American Art*.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 2	Gerardia's Signature, Samples, circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 3	Miscellaneous Correspondence, circa 1962-1973
Box 1, Folder 4	"Is Art Important in Everyday Life?", Lecture, 1954, Jan. 12
Box 1, Folder 5	Statement on Art, Gerardia, 1964, Mar. 4
Box 1, Folder 6	Who's Who in American Art, Biographical Material, circa 1956

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Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1953-1971

.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of exhibition announcements and catalogs, news clippings, and various newsletters.

Box 1, Folder 7	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1953-1968
Box 1, Folder 8	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1953-1968
Box 1, Folder 9	Clippings, circa 1954-1969
Box 1, Folder 10	Newsletters, circa 1968-1971

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Series 3: Scrapbooks, circa 1951-1988

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-6)

Scope and Contents: Scrapbooks include various clippings, exhibition announcements, fliers, photographs, and other printed materials.

Box 1, Folder 11	Scrapbook, circa 1951-1954
Box 3, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1954-1956
Box 3, Folder 2	Scrapbook, circa 1956-1957
Box 3, Folder 3	Scrapbook, circa 1957-1961
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1961-1963
Box 4, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1963-1965
Box 5, Folder 2	Scrapbook, circa 1965-1966
Box 4, Folder 2	Scrapbook, circa 1969
Box 6, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1969-1971
Volume 8	Scrapbook, circa 1971-1973
Box 2, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1972-1976
Box 6, Folder 2	Scrapbook, circa 1976-1982
Box 1, Folder 12-14	Scrapbook, circa 1982-1988

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Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1945-1975

.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2 and 7)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs of Gerardia, the Yaddo Fellowship, and of Gerardia's artwork.

Box 2, Folder 2	Gerardia, Helen, circa 1956-1969
Box 2, Folder 3	Yaddo Fellowship, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1945-1975
Box 7, Folder 1-2	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1945-1975

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