



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Fay Gold Papers, circa 1900-1979, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

2024/11/26

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Fay Gold papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1900-1979
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.goldfay
<b>Creator:</b>	Gold, Fay Helfand
<b>Extent:</b>	1.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of collagist and painter Fay Helfand Gold (1907-1998) measure 1.2 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1979. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, personal business records, photographs, printed material, sketches and sketchbooks, and writings by Gold and Helen West Heller.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Fay Gold donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1962 and 1979.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel D361 available at Archives of American Art offices. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection was arranged upon receipt and partially microfilmed onto reel D361. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2024 with received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

### Preferred Citation

Fay Gold papers, circa 1900-1979. 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

Fay Helfand Gold (19087-1998) was a painter and collagist in New York City, New York. She studied at Parson's School of Design under Howard Giles. Gold began her career as an illustrator and later focused on abstract expressionist paintings. She married Louis Gold and together they had one son, David. In addition to her art career, Gold was an expert in breeding and training Yorkshire Terriers.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of collagist and painter Fay Helfand Gold (1907-1998) measure 1.2 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1979. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, personal business records, photographs, printed material, sketches and sketchbooks, and writings by Gold and Helen West Heller.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

Women artists  
Women painters

### Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

### Names:

Giles, Howard, 1876-1955  
Heller, Helen West, d. 1955

### Occupations:

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

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Fay Gold Papers, circa 1900-1979

#### 1.2 Linear feet (Box 1-3)

**Scope and Contents:** Biographical materials include awards, biographical sketches, and resumes. Largely professional, correspondence is scattered and includes letters from the Butler Institute of American Art, Philip Evergood, Domenico Facci, Emily Grenauer, Guggenheim Museum, and the New York Public Library. Of note are letters from Gold's former teacher, Howard Giles in which he advises Gold on her career and discusses art theory. Personal business records include an applications for a Guggenheim Fellowship, employment at a camp, and the formation of Fay Gold, Inc.. Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs. Also found are two published works on Yorkshire Terriers, one written by Fay Gold.

In addition to formal portraits and snapshots of Gold, there are photos of Fay Gold which depict her painting, teaching, and dancing in costume. Family photographs are of Gold's parents Solomon and Esther Helfand, her siblings, husband, son, and of Solomon's newsstand in Brooklyn, New York. Other photos are of Howard Giles in the classroom with art students. Also found is a photograph of the participants of Yaddo in 1949: John Malcolm Brnnin, William Buford, Joan Colebrooke, Joseph Frank, Fay Gold, William Parks Grant, Richard Hagopean, Myron O'Higgins, Simions Pierson, Charles Schucker, Luce Turnier, David Wagoner, Boom Weber, and Eugenia Zundel. Also found are photographs of works of art, many of which are annotated.

Unfinished works of art include collages, drawings, and painted sketches. Watercolor sketches were completed by Gold in the mid-1920s while at Parson's School of Design and were likely illustrations for a children's book. Four painted sketches completed in 1957 are described by Gold as being her early attempts at abstract expressionism. Also found is a sketchbook and two dismantled bound volumes of Gold's designs.

Writings by Fay Gold include a diary, notes, poetry, and her thesis on design and art theory from 1931. A seven-page manuscript autobiography is by Gold's friend, woodcut artist Helen West Heller.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Correspondence, 1933-1978
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Personal Business Records, circa 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, of Fay Gold and Family Photos, circa 1900-1971
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Photographs, of Works of Art, 1950s-1979
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, Negatives, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Slides, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 2	Printed Material, 1946-1973

Box 2, Folder 3	Printed Material, Yorkshire Terriers, 1968-1974
Box 2, Folder 4	Sketchbook, 1949
Box 2, Folder 5	Sketches, Dismantled Bound Volume, 1926-1930s
Box 2, Folder 6	Sketches, Painted, 1957
Box 3, Folder 1	Sketches, Painted on Canvas, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 2	Sketches, Pen and Pencil, circa 1930-1960
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketches, Watercolor, 1924-1933
Box 3, Folder 4	Writings, Thesis by Fay Gold, 1931
Box 3, Folder 5	Writings, Diary, 1958
Box 3, Folder 6	Writings, General, 1941-circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 7	Writing, by Helen West Heller, 1955

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