



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A finding aid to the Irma Engel Grabhorn Papers,  
1945-1991, in the Archives of American Art.

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Irma Engel Grabhorn papers
<b>Date:</b>	1945-1991
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.grabirma
<b>Creator:</b>	Grabhorn, Irma Engel, 1906-2003
<b>Extent:</b>	0.8 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English and German.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Irma Engel Grabhorn measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1945-1991. The collection contains a subject file on Carl Hofer, letters, financial material, notes, printed material and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Irma Engel Grabhorn papers were donated by Irma Engel Grabhorn in 1991.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed in 1994 by Jean Fitzgerald. A finding aid was created in 2018 by Caroline Donadio.

### Preferred Citation

Irma Engel Grabhorn papers, 1945-1991. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Irma Engel Grabhorn (1906-2003) was painter and art patron born in Badenweiler, Germany. She was a student of Andre Lhote in Paris, and studied at the Academy of Arts in Berlin under Carl Hofer. She married Samuel Engel, professor of ophthalmology at Stanford University, in 1932. After his death, she remarried Edwin Grabhorn in 1964. Grabhorn had several exhibitions of her work in New York and San Francisco.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Irma Engel Grabhorn measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1945-1991. The collection contains a subject file on Carl Hofer, letters, financial material, notes, printed material and photographs.

The subject file on Carl Hofer contains one hundred twenty-one letters from Carl Hofer to Grabhorn, who had been his student, and a printed speech by Hofer concerning an exhibition opening in Frankfurt. Additional letters are from friends and colleagues, discussing Grabhorn's career as a painter and art patron, as well as her interest in painter Hans Thoma and the activities and prizes named for him. Other material includes receipts, notes, clippings, an exhibition catalog for Thoma, programs, and four photographs of a house and an unidentified art work.

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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

Occupations:

Art patrons -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- Germany  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Irma Engel Grabhorn papers, 1945-1991

#### *0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)*

Scope and Contents: The papers of Irma Engel Grabhorn, 1941-1991 contains a subject file on Carl Hofer that consists of one hundred twenty-one letters from Carl Hofer to Grabhorn, who had been his student, and a printed speech by Hofer concerning an exhibition opening in Frankfurt. Letters are from friends and colleagues, discussing Grabhorn's career as a painter and art patron, and her interest in painter Hans Thoma and the activities and prizes named for him. Other material includes receipts, notes, clippings, an exhibition catalog for Thoma, programs, and four photographs of a house and an unidentified art work.

Box 1, Folder 1-15	Subject File on Carl Hofer, 1946-1956
Box 1, Folder 16-31	Letters, 1948-1985, undated
Box 2, Folder 1-19	Letters, 1985-1991
Box 2, Folder 20	Financial Material, Receipts, 1945-1969
Box 2, Folder 21	Notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Printed Material, Clippings, 1987-1990
Box 2, Folder 23	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalog for Hans Thoma, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Printed Material, Programs, 1952-1984
Box 2, Folder 25	Printed Material, Reproduction of Art Work, undated
Box 2, Folder 26	Photographs, 1969, undated

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