



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Papers of and relating to John D. Graham

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Papers of and relating to John D. Graham
Date:	[ca. 1950-1960]
Identifier:	AAA.grahjohp
Creator:	Graham, John, 1887-1961
Extent:	Partial microfilm reel.
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming by Jack Mayer, 1971.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender, Jack Mayer, after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 96 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Jack Mayer was an art dealer and owner of Gallery Mayer, New York, which handled the work of painter John Graham. Graham, born Ivan Gratsianovitch Dombrovski in Kiev, Russia in 1886 (baptised in 1881, hence the use of that year on many authoritative sources), came to N.Y. in 1920 and was a central figure among American avant-garde artists, especially from the late 1920s to 1940s. Graham was also a collector of African art which inspired an interest in primitivism in his work. Graham moved to Mexico in 1936. In 1937 he published *Systems and Dialectics of Art*, stimulating American artists interest in primitive art.

Scope and Contents

Corrected and annotated mss. by Graham "Art History" with related notes (ca. 350 p. total); an autobiographical sketch, entitled "Autoportrait" (3 p. typescript); and an 8 p. summary by Angus Deming of an interview she conducted with Graham, Sept. 1960 in Paris.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Avant-garde (Aesthetics) -- New York (State) -- New York
- Cubism
- Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York
- Surrealism

Types of Materials:

- Interviews

Names:

- Graham, John, 1887-1961
- Mayer, Jack

Occupations:

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