



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dwinell Grant Papers, 1930-1988, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2020 September 22

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1940-1988	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1930-1988	5
Series 3: Writings, circa 1948	6
Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1978-1988	7
Series 5: Printed Material, 1936-1988	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Dwinell Grant papers
Date:	1930-1988
Identifier:	AAA.grandwin
Creator:	Grant, Dwinell, 1912-1991
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Dwinell Grant papers measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1930 to 1988. The papers document Grant's career as a painter and filmmaker through awards and certificates, interviews, resumes, and other biographical material; correspondence with friends, colleagues, and art institutions; manuscripts and other writings; business records with Olympia Gallery and Martin Diamond Fine Arts and Graham Gallery; and brochures, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the archives by Dwinell Grant in 1988. Additional material was lent for microfilming by Dwinell Grant in 1988.

Separated Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art are materials lent for microfilming (reels 4154-4155) including writings, mostly from the 1980s, expressing Grant's thoughts and philosophies concerning himself and his art work, sometimes presented in the format of a journal; one album containing photographs of Grant, his family and friends, and nine albums of photographs of works and of gallery installations, annotated with information on sales, experiments with light, including a formula for stereoscopic drawing, notes on abstractfilms, medical illustrations, and dream fantasies; and two sketchbooks containing abstract drawings. Lent materials were returned to Grant and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of this collection and material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels 4152-4155 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Dwinell Grant papers, 1930-1988. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Dwinell Grant (1912-1991) was a painter and filmmaker in Pennsylvania. Grant was born and raised in Ohio. He received early art training from his grandfather, Paul E. Henking, and also studied at the Dayton Art Institute and the National Academy of Design. In 1935, he began teaching at Wittenberg College in Ohio. He was primarily influenced by his association with Hilla Rebay and the Museum of Non-Objective Art (the Guggenheim), and from 1944-1948 worked on an unfinished film project for the Guggenheim. In 1947, he began producing medical teaching films and supplemented his income with work on medical books, while continuing to work on his paintings.

Scope and Contents

The Dwinell Grant papers measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1930 to 1988. The papers document Grant's career as a painter and filmmaker through awards and certificates, interviews, resumes, and other biographical material; correspondence with friends, colleagues, and art institutions; manuscripts and other writings; business records with Olympia Gallery and Martin Diamond Fine Arts and Graham Gallery; and brochures, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material.

Biographical material includes awards and certificates, resumes, a timeline of Grant's life, some autobiographical notes by Grant and two videotapes PROFILE OF DWINELL GRANT from "Profiles in Excellence" conducted by Gary Perdue, and an interview with Grant for ART BEAT. Correspondence is composed of letters to and from Grant with friends, colleagues, and art institutions. Writings include essays Grant wrote for academic courses and typescript writings expressing Grant's thoughts on art and religion. Business records include Grant's dealings with Martin Diamond Fine Arts and Graham Gallery and the Olympia Gallery during the late 1970s and 1980s. Materials include such things as invoices, appraisals, and storage of artwork. Printed material includes press releases, clippings, programs for plays produced at Wittenberg College, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and brochures and fliers concerning Grant's medical and other filmmaking projects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1940-1988 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1930-1988 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1948 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1978-1988 (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)

- Series 5: Printed Material, 1936-1988 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Video recordings

Occupations:

Filmmakers -- Pennsylvania
Painters -- Pennsylvania

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1940-1988

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes awards and certificates, resumes, a timeline of Grant's life, some autobiographical notes by Grant and two videotapes PROFILE OF DWINELL GRANT from "Profiles in Excellence" conducted by Gary Perdue, and an interview with Grant for ART BEAT.

Box 1, Folder 1 Awards and Certificates, 1940-1988

Box 1, Folder 2 Interview Transcript, undated
Notes: An interview with Dwinell Grant. May possibly be a partial transcript of the video interview for "Art Beat."

Box 1, Folder 3, Item 1 Interview with Dwinell Grant, 1988 March
1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 3, Item 2 "Profile: Dwinell Grant" from Profiles in Excellence, 1980
1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 4 Resumes, 1940-1988

Box 1, Folder 5 Timeline, 1988

Box 1, Folder 6 Miscellaneous, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1930-1988

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is composed of letters to and from Grant with friends, colleagues, and art institutions.

Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Correspondence, 1940
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1941-1942
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1945-1946
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1947
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1948
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1949-1950
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1953-1988

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1948

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include essays Grant wrote for academic courses and typescript writings expressing Grant's thoughts on art and religion.

Box 1, Folder 18	"Art and Human Need", undated
Box 1, Folder 19	"Color and the Consumer" by Jean O. Grant, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	"The Dynamic Pattern", undated
Box 2, Folder 2	"Part I: The Process Concept", undated
Box 2, Folder 3	"The Place of Abstract Design in the Art of Western Europe", undated
Box 2, Folder 4	"Prologue", 1950
Box 2, Folder 5	"The Structure of the Theme", circa 1948
Box 2, Folder 6	"The Twentieth Century Need", undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1978-1988

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Business records include Grant's dealings with Martin Diamond Fine Arts and Graham Gallery and the Olympia Gallery during the late 1970s and 1980s. Materials include such things as invoices, appraisals, and storage of artwork.

Box 2, Folder 8-9 Martin Diamond Fine Arts and Graham Gallery, 1979-1988

Box 2, Folder 10-11 Olympia Gallery, 1978-1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1936-1988

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes press releases, clippings, programs for plays produced at Wittenberg College, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and brochures and fliers concerning Grant's medical and other filmmaking projects.

Box 2, Folder 12-13	Clippings, 1936-1988
Box 2, Folder 14	Medical Projects Brochures, 1973-1976
Box 2, Folder 15	Press Releases, 1963-1982
Box 2, Folder 16	Wittenberg College, 1936-1941
Box 2, Folder 17	Miscellaneous, 1954-1987

[Return to Table of Contents](#)