



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Edmund Greacen  
papers, 1897-1972, bulk 1905-1949,  
in the Archives of American Art.

Ryan Evans

2018 February 14

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Edmund Greacen papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.greaedmu
<b>Date:</b>	1987-1972 (bulk 1905-1949)
<b>Extent:</b>	1.2 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Greacen, Edmund W., 1876-1949
<b>Language:</b>	English  Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of American Impressionist painter Edmund Greacen measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1897-1972, bulk 1905-1949. The collection consists of biographical information and correspondence both personal and professional in nature, pertaining to his career as well as Greacen's various affiliations including the National Academy of Design, the National Arts Club, the Manhattan School of Art, and the Grand Central School of Art. Writings by Greacen, including an essay, "The Origins of Landscape Painting," and an unpublished book titled "Logic in Drawing" elucidate his perspective on art traditions and art education. There are works of art including pencil drawings and drypoint etchings, as well as photographs depicting portraits of the artist, group portraits documenting Greacen's various academic and professional affiliations, and reproductions of works of art. Also included exhibition catalogs, brochures, and other printed material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Edmund Greacen papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1971 by Mrs. Edmund Greacen, Jr., daughter-in-law of Edmund Greacen, and in 2017 by Elizabeth G. Knudsen, granddaughter of Edmund Greacen.

### Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 99 and 105 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. 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 processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2018.

## Preferred Citation

Edmund Greacen papers, 1897-1972, bulk 1905-1949. 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Edmund Greacen papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical / Historical

Edmund William Greacen (1876-1949) was an American Impressionist painter born in New York City. Greacen traveled extensively throughout Europe early in his career, which afforded him the opportunity to exhibit his work in Paris, and participate in the international art scene both abroad and in New York City. He is particularly known for his oil paintings on canvas and board depicting both human subjects and landscapes. In 1922 he was awarded the Samuel T. Shaw Prize from the Salmagundi Club following his solo show at the Macbeth Gallery. During his career, he was an active member of the Salmagundi Club, the National Academy of Design, and the National Arts Club where he served as Arts Committee Chair. He helped found the Manhattan School of Art as well as the Grand Central School of Art in 1923, and he served as director of both. He was also a member of the Old Lyme Art Colony of American Impressionists at Old Lyme, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of American Impressionist painter Edmund Greacen measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1897-1972, bulk 1905-1949. The collection consists of biographical information and correspondence both personal and professional in nature, pertaining to his career as well as Greacen's various affiliations including the National Academy of Design, the National Arts Club, the Manhattan School of Art, and the Grand Central School of Art. Writings by Greacen, including an essay, "The Origins of Landscape Painting," and an unpublished book titled "Logic in Drawing" elucidate his perspective on art traditions and art education. There are works of art including pencil drawings and drypoint etchings, as well as photographs depicting portraits of the artist, group portraits documenting Greacen's various academic and professional affiliations, and reproductions of works of art. Also included exhibition catalogs, brochures, and other printed material.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five series:

Series 1: Biographical and Professional (Box 1, Box 3) Series 2: Correspondence (Boxes 1-2) Series 3: Writings (Box 2) Series 4: Photographs (Boxes 2-3) Series 5: Artwork (Box 3, OV 4)

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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:

Art -- Study and teaching  
Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art, American  
Drawing  
Impressionism (Art)  
Landscape painting  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Etchings  
Photographs  
Sketches

Names:

National Academy of Design (U.S.)  
National Arts Club

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical and Professional Files, circa 1898-1960

*0.1 Linear feet (Box 1, Box 3)*

Biographical materials include artist biographies as well as memberships and documentation regarding Greacen's service to the French YMCA during World War I. Professional papers consist of studio documents including sales information and inventories in addition to catalogs and listings, clippings and materials related to the Grand Central School of Art.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Materials, circa 1898-1939
Box 3, Folder 1	Biographical Materials, 1919
Box 1, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, Announcements, and Listings, circa 1904-1972
Box 1, Folder 3	Studio Inventory and Documentation, circa 1911-1944
Box 1, Folder 4	Grand Central School of Art, circa 1917-1943
Box 1, Folder 5	Committees and Advisory, circa 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 6	Clippings, circa 1909-1960

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1905-1943

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

Correspondence is largely professional in nature, with some personal correspondence with family included. Professional correspondence relates to Greacen's art career as well as his various art club affiliations. Separate folders include Greacen's correspondence as Arts Committee Chair for the National Arts Club.

Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1905
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1909
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1910
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1911
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1912
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1913
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1914
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1915
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1916
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1917
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1918
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1919
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1920
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1921
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1922
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1923
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1924
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1925
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1926
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, 1927
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence, 1928
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 1929

Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, 1930
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, 1931
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, 1932
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, 1933
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence, 1934
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1935
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1936
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1937
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1938
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1939
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1940
Box 2, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1941
Box 2, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1942
Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1943
Box 2, Folder 10	General Correspondence, Undated, circa 1910-1935
Box 2, Folder 11	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1932
Box 2, Folder 12	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1933
Box 2, Folder 13	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1934
Box 2, Folder 14	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1936
Box 2, Folder 15	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1938
Box 2, Folder 16	National Arts Club Correspondence, 1939
Box 2, Folder 17	National Arts Club Correspondence, Undated, circa 1932-1939

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## Series 3: Writings, circa 1930-1945

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)*

Writings by Greacen, including an essay, "The Origins of Landscape Painting," and an unpublished book titled *Logic in Drawing* elucidate his perspective on art traditions and art education.

Box 2, Folder 18      *Logic in Writing* Manuscript, 1942

Box 2, Folder 19      "The Origin of Landscape Painting" Manuscript, circa 1930-1945

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## Series 4: Photographs, circa 1897-1942

### *0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)*

Photographs include portraits of the artist, group portraits documenting Greacen's various academic and professional affiliations, and reproductions of works of art.

Box 2, Folder 20	Photographs of the Artist, circa 1911-1939
Box 2, Folder 21-23	Photographs of Works of Art, circa 1910-1940
Box 3, Folder 2	NYU Glee Club Portrait, circa 1897
Box 3, Folder 3	Salmagundi Club Portrait, 1922
Box 3, Folder 4	NYU, Salmagundi Club, and National Arts Club Portraits, circa 1898-1942

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## Series 5: Artwork, circa 1910-1940

*0.2 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 4)*

Works of art include pencil drawings and prints including drypoint etchings, as well as a signed reproduction of a painting by Greacen related to his 1922 Samuel T. Shaw Prize from the Salmagundi Prize.

Box 3, Folder 5	Prints, circa 1910-1940
Box 3, Folder 6	Drawings, circa 1910-1940
Box 4	Group-Signed Greacen Print from Painting, 1922

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