



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Frances Cranmer Greenman Papers, 1911-1957

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2022/10/19

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Frances Cranmer Greenman papers
Date:	1911-1957
Identifier:	AAA.greefrac
Creator:	Greenman, Frances Cranmer, 1890-1981
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of portrait artist Frances Cranmer Greenman measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1957. Found are letters from artists, collectors, and the subjects of her paintings; photographs of works of art and of Greenman; sketches and a sketchbook; and a draft manuscript of Greenman's autobiography <i>Higher Than the Sky</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1958 by Frances Cranmer Greenman.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel 855 at 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 received a preliminary level of arrangement upon receipt and was microfilmed on reel 855. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Frances Cranmer Greenman papers, 1911-1957. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Frances Cranmer Greenman (1891-1991) was a portrait painter, art critic, and author from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She painted portraits of artists, socialites, and Hollywood stars and wrote a longtime column for the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*.

Greenman was born in South Dakota and was the daughter of notable suffragist Emma A. Cranmer and lawyer Simeon Harris Cranmer. She studied art at the Corcoran School of Art and in New York City with William Merritt Chase and Robert Henri. She split her time between Minneapolis and New York City in her early career, ultimately settling in Minneapolis at the Hampshire Arms Hotel. She taught at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Frances Cranmer Greenman died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1991.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of portrait artist Frances Cranmer Greenman measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1957. Found are letters from artists, collectors, and the subjects of her paintings; photographs of works of art and of Greenman; sketches and a sketchbook; and a draft manuscript of Greenman's autobiography *Higher Than the Sky*.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women art critics
- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Sketchbooks

Occupations:

- Art critics -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- Authors -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- Portrait painters -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis

Container Listing

Series 1: Frances Cranmer Greenman Papers, 1911-1957

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Series includes thirty-six personal and business letters received from artists including William Zorach, dealers, collectors, and friends. One letter is written by Greenman. A draft manuscript for Greenman's autobiography *Higher Than the Sky* (1954) is partially handwritten and also includes typed pages.

Photographs are of Greenman's portraits, most of which are annotated and identified. Of note are portraits of Dewey E. Albinson, George B. Bridgman, Howard Green, W. Elmer Schofield, and William Zorach. Also found are photos of Frances Cranmer Greenman and Mary Pickford at the unveiling of the actress's portrait in 1935.

Sketches and cartoons are signed and are in pencil and ink. A sketchbook was kept during Greenman's time spent traveling in Europe along the Rhine River in 1911.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1935-1957
Box 2	Higher Than the Sky, by Frances Cranmer Greenman, Draft, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs, of Frances Cranmer Greenman and Others, 1935-1950s
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Photographs, Portraits, 1930s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 5	Sketchbook, 1911
Box 1, Folder 6	Sketches, 1920s-1950s
Oversize 3	Sketches, Oversized, 1920s-1950s

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