



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Marion Greenstone Papers, 1929-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marion Greenstone papers
Date:	1929-2014
Identifier:	AAA.greemario
Creator:	Greenstone, Marion
Extent:	4.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Marion Greenstone measure 4.6 linear feet, and date from 1929-2014. The collection documents Greenstone's career through biographical materials, mixed professional and personal correspondence, writings and notebooks, exhibition and gallery files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, sketches and sketchbooks, and photographs. The papers also include three motion picture films comprised of homemade footage created by Greenstone.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2007 by Cora Hahn, Marion Greenstone's sister.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Marion Greenstone Papers, 1929-2014. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Marion Isaacson Greenstone (1925-2005) was a painter and educator in New York, New York.

Greenstone received her B.A. from Brooklyn College, completed an M.A. at Columbia University, and earned a diploma from Cooper Union. In addition to living in New York, Greenstone also took residences in Italy and Canada, exhibiting frequently in both countries well into the 2000s. Her initial time in Italy was under a Fulbright grant in 1954. While there, Greenstone studied painting and lectured on art. By the end of the decade she had moved with her husband to London, Ontario and gained notoriety there for her artwork. By the late 1960s Greenstone was back in New York working as a teacher for the Pratt Institute. Her activities were then divided between teaching, creating art, and exhibiting her work. During her career, Greenstone's work was included in museum and gallery group shows in the United States, Canada, and Italy, including ones held at the Schneider Gallery in Rome, Brooklyn Museum, and Royal Canadian Academy. She held solo exhibitions in Canada at the Park Gallery, Dorothy Cameron Gallery, and University of Western Ontario; and in the United States at the Bridge Gallery, Sixth Estate Gallery, and Long Island University. Her work can be found in various private and public collections including the Ontario Gallery of Art, Continental Telephone Corp., and the Art Gallery of London. After retiring in 1992 she traveled extensively throughout Europe with her husband, Myron, and others, and continued exhibiting and creating artwork until her death in 2005.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Marion Greenstone measure 4.6 linear feet, and date from 1929-2014. The collection documents Greenstone's career through biographical materials, mixed professional and personal correspondence, writings and notebooks, exhibition and gallery files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, sketches and sketchbooks, and photographs. The papers also include three motion picture films comprised of homemade footage created by Greenstone.

Biographical materials include records from Greenstone's education, a birth certificate, organization membership papers, an interview transcript, and a transcript from a talk she gave in Bari, Italy, circa 1955. This grouping also includes three motion picture films. Correspondence is comprised of mixed professional and personal letters with friends, other artists, museums, and galleries. Of particular note is her communications with several fellow Cooper Union art department graduates including Ronnie (R. B.) Kitaj, Joseph Raffael, and Paul Thek. Writings and notebooks include artist statements, drafts of articles and reviews by Greenstone, course notebooks from her studies, daily notebooks, and travel diaries. Exhibition and gallery files consist of correspondence, loan agreements, shipping documents, as well as some price lists, photographs, and publicity material. Teaching files primarily pertain to her tenure at the Pratt Institute, consisting of lecture and classroom notes, student correspondence, administrative papers, and identification cards. Personal business records contain sales records, inventories, communications with art services and consultants, papers pertaining to grant and fellowship applications, and some commission files. Printed materials consist of exhibition material, press releases, some of Greenstone's reference material, articles and clippings both about Greenstone and written by the artist, and newsletters. Artwork includes several sketchbooks and loose sketches; some small paintings are included as well. Photographs are primarily snapshots and slides of the artist, friends, family, travel, and artwork.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 9 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1931-2006 (Box 1, FC 7; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2000 (Box 1; 10 folders)
- Series 3: Writings and Notebooks, 1947-2003 (Box 1-2; 0.8 linear feet)

- Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, 1959-1992 (Box 2; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Teaching Files, 1969-1992 (Box 2-3; 12 folders)
 - Series 6: Personal Business Records, 1951-1999 (Box 3; 12 folders)
 - Series 7: Printed Material, 1929-2014 (Box 3-4; 1 linear foot)
 - Series 8: Artwork, 1945-1992 (Box 4, OV 6; 0.5 linear feet)
 - Series 9: Photographs, 1954-1990s (Box 5; 0.4 linear feet)
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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:

Abstract expressionism
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Names:

Johnson, Ray, 1927-1995
Kitaj, R. B.
Pratt Institute -- Faculty
Raffael, Joseph, 1933-

Occupations:

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1931-2006

.5 Linear feet (Box 1; FC 7)

Scope and Contents: Files include records from Greenstone's education such as grade school report cards, transcripts, diplomas, and some papers from her time as chairman of the Committee on Discriminatory Practices at Brooklyn College. Also found are her birth certificate, organization membership correspondence and mailings, War Department assignment papers, a transcript from an interview conducted by the World War II Farm Labor Project, and a transcript of a talk she gave in Bari, Italy, circa 1955. This series also includes three motion picture films of homemade footage created by Greenstone. The film was titled "The Dentist", and was described by Greenstone as an "attempt to recreate...the experience of being trapped in the mechanical world of modern dentistry and the helplessness of the patient as he is attacked by all this technology."

Box 1, Folder 1	Award, Cooper Union Golden Legion, 1994
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Summaries; Resumes, 1963-2006
Box 1, Folder 3	Birth Certificate, 1989
Box 1, Folder 4	"The Dentist," Papers, 1967-1968
Box 1, Folder 5	"The Dentist," Film, circa 1967
Item FC 7	"The Dentist", circa 1967 1 Film reel (16 mm)
Item FC 8	"The Dentist" trims and outtakes, circa 1967 1 Film reel (16mm)
Box 1, Folder 6	Education, Grade School, 1931-1942
Box 1, Folder 7	Education, University and College Papers, 1945-1960
Box 1, Folder 8	Education, University Diplomas, 1946, 1954
Box 1, Folder 9	Interview Transcript, Farm Labor Project, 2000
Box 1, Folder 10	Mailing Lists, 1970s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 11	Materials on Greenstone's Bulletin Board, circa 1960s-2000s
Box 1, Folder 12	Organization and Membership Records, 1975-1998
Box 1, Folder 13	Talk Given in Italy, Transcript, circa 1955

Box 1, Folder 14

War Department Temporary Appointment, 1944

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2000

10 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Mixed professional and personal letters with friends, other artists, museums, galleries, and cultural organizations. Of particular note is her letters with several fellow Cooper Union art department graduates Ronnie Kitaj, Joseph Raffael, and Paul Thek. Other artist correspondents include Ray Johnson and Phyllis Berg-Pigorsch. Professional correspondence, especially with museums, galleries and collectors, includes some price lists and printed materials.

Box 1, Folder 15	Berg-Pigorsch, Phyllis, 1966-1981
Box 1, Folder 16	Johnson, Ray, 1960s
Box 1, Folder 17	Kitaj, Ronnie, 1962-2000
Box 1, Folder 18	Raffael, Joseph, 1960-1971
Box 1, Folder 19	Thek, Personal, 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 20-22	Personal, 1954-1990s
Box 1, Folder 23	Professional, 1957-2000
Box 1, Folder 24	Professional, Canada, 1958-1980

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Series 3: Writings and Notebooks, 1947-2003

.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include drafts of artist statements, articles, and reviews written by Greenstone; daily notebooks; travel diaries; and course notebooks from her studies on art.

Box 1, Folder 25	Artist Statements, 1987, undated
Box 1, Folder 26	Course Notebook, Art History, 1954
Box 1, Folder 27	Course Notebook, Painting, circa 1949-1954
Box 1, Folder 28	Course Notebook, Loose Notes, circa 1947-1953
Box 1, Folder 29-30	General Notebooks, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Notes, Artwork, 1970s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 3	Notes, Books to Read, circa 1970s-1992
Box 2, Folder 4	Notes, Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, 1978
Box 2, Folder 5	Notes, Gardens and Landscape Architecture, 1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 6	Reference Material and Notes, 1960s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 7-10	Travel Diaries, 1956-2003
Box 2, Folder 11	Travel, List of Trips, 1993-2003, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Writings by Greenstone, 1958

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Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, 1959-1992

.4 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: The records pertain to several group and solo exhibitions of Greenstone's work at galleries and museums in the United States, Canada, and Italy. They consist of correspondence, loan agreements, shipping documents, as well as some pricelists, photographs, and publicity material. Also found are papers related to damaged artwork, sales, some notes written by Greenstone, and a guest book from an exhibition at the Sixth Estate Gallery.

Box 2, Folder 13	London Show (1964), Dorothy Cameron Gallery, 1963-1965
Box 2, Folder 14	Marion Greenstone: Paintings (1966), Albert White Galleries, 1965-1966, 1980
Box 2, Folder 15	Marion Greenstone: Paintings (1976), Long Island University, 1976
Box 2, Folder 16	Selections II (1982), Museum of the Hudson Highlands, 1982
Box 2, Folder 17	Fullbright Alumni Show (1983), Pace University, 1983
Box 2, Folder 18	Norwalk Show, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 19	The Exceptions and the Exceptionals: Women Artists at Pratt (1987), 1986-1987
Box 2, Folder 20	Marion Greenstone: Oils, Collages, and Mono Prints (1990), Plandome Gallery, 1989-1990
Box 2, Folder 21	Marion Greenstone: Recent Work (1992), Manhasset Library Gallery, 1990-1992
Box 2, Folder 22	Art Gallery of Ontario, 1987-1988
Box 2, Folder 23	The Art Showcase, 1996-1998
Box 2, Folder 24	The Bridge Gallery, 1963-1964
Box 2, Folder 25	Dorothy Cameron Gallery, 1962-1965
Box 2, Folder 26	Here & Now Art Gallery, 1961-1962
Box 2, Folder 27	John Cusano Fine Art, 1980s
Box 2, Folder 28	Nancy Poole Studio, 1971-1976
Box 2, Folder 29	Sixth Estate Gallery, 1975-1977
Box 2, Folder 30	Sixth Estate Gallery, Exhibition Guest Book, 1976

Box 2, Folder 31

Exhibitions and Galleries, 1959-1986

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Series 5: Teaching Files, 1969-1992

12 Folders (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Teaching files pertain primarily to Greenstone's tenure at the Pratt Institute, and consist of lecture and classroom notes, student correspondence, administrative papers, and identification cards. Lecture and classroom notes comprise the bulk of this series, each containing dates, commentary in the margins, and class outlines. Also found is a letter from the Downtown Community School in Manhattan confirming Greenstone's employment in 1950; and some papers related to the Writing Across Curriculum Program in the 1980s.

Box 2, Folder 32 Administrative Papers, 1986-1992

Box 2, Folder 33-35 Class Notes and Lectures, 1969-1992

Box 3, Folder 1-3 Class Notes and Lectures, 1969-1992

Box 3, Folder 4 Downtown Community School, 1950

Box 3, Folder 5 Pratt Identification Cards, 1977-1992

Box 3, Folder 6 Reference Materials and Notes on Teaching Art, 1970s-1991

Box 3, Folder 7 Student Recommendations and Correspondence, 1970-1992

Box 3, Folder 8 Writing Across the Curriculum Program, 1985

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Series 6: Personal Business Records, 1951-1999

12 Folders (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: This series includes sales records and inventories; correspondence, price lists, receipts, and notes pertaining to art services and consultants; papers related to grant and fellowship applications such as denial letters, resumes, statements of purpose, and other materials; contracts, sketches, correspondence, and images that document Greenstone's commission under the New York Department of Public Works; and correspondence regarding various artist slide registries.

Box 3, Folder 8	Art for Industry, 1970-1984
Box 3, Folder 9	Art Services and Consultants, 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 10	Fine Art Resources, 1987-1990
Box 3, Folder 11	Grant Applications, 1951-1999
Box 3, Folder 12	Grant Denials, 1976-1996
Box 3, Folder 13	Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, 1959, 1963
Box 3, Folder 14	New York Department of Public Works, Commission, 1973-1978
Box 3, Folder 15	Notebook, Inventories, 1980s
Box 3, Folder 16	Payments Received, 1960-1982
Box 3, Folder 17	Price Lists, circa 1960-1993
Box 3, Folder 18	Sale of Life's Diverse Bouquet, 1993-1998
Box 3, Folder 19	Slide Registries, 1976-1999

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Series 7: Printed Material, 1929-2014

1 Linear foot (Box 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed exhibition materials include invitations, catalogs, brochures and some posters from group and solo shows in the United States, Canada, and Italy between the 1950s-2014. Articles and newspaper clippings contain reviews of Greenstone's work, exhibitions, summaries of her career, and also found are articles written by Greenstone herself. Other files include reference material for artwork, organization newsletters and bulletins, and garden tour brochures. Accompanying the garden tour material is a letter stating Greenstone had completed her first year of a two-year landscape gardening course at the New York Botanical Garden.

Box 3, Folder 21	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Greenstone, 1950-1970s
Box 3, Folder 22	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1950s-2005
Box 3, Folder 23	Articles Written by Greenstone for "Pictures on Exhibit", 1956-1958
Box 3, Folder 24	Exhibition Material, Solo Shows, 1963-2007
Box 3, Folder 25	Exhibition Material, Solo Shows, Canada, 1958-1966
Box 3, Folder 26	Exhibition Material, Group Shows, 1956-1999
Box 3, Folder 27-29	Exhibition Material, Group Shows, Canada, 1955-1963
Box 4, Folder 1	Exhibition Material, Group Shows, Canada, 1955-1963
Box 4, Folder 2	Exhibition Material, Italian Shows, 1955-1956, 2011, 2014
Box 4, Folder 3	Gardens, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 4	Organization Materials, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 6	Press Releases, 1961-1992
Box 4, Folder 5	Postcards, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Reference Material, Egg Tempera, circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 7	Reference Material, City Walls, 1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 8	Reference Material, Shells, 1960s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 9-13	Scrapbooks, 1929-1976

Box 4, Folder 14

Scrapbook, Fragment, undated

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Series 8: Artwork, 1945-1992

0.5 Linear feet (Box 4, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: This series contains several sketchbooks, some of which contain dates and locations of sketches, paintings and other colored works, notations, and some printed material. Many of the sketches relate to Greenstone's larger pieces, and include abstract shapes, figures, and some still life drawings. Also included is a color wheel, a wood cut that's accompanied by its prints, and a piece of art given to Greenstone for her 42nd birthday.

Box 4, Folder 16	Birthday Art for Marion, 1967
Box 4, Folder 17	Color Wheel, 1945, undated
Box 4, Folder 18-23	Sketchbooks, circa 1949-1970s
Box 4, Folder 24	Sketches, Shapes Canvas; Notes, 1960s-1990s
Oversize 6	Sketches, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 25	Woodcut, Mono Prints, 1982

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Series 9: Photographs, 1954-1990s

.4 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Photographs include primarily snapshots and slides of Greenstone, her friends and family, travel, and some of her artwork. Travel slides depict her time in Italy in the 1950s, and photographs portray her and her husband's travel throughout Europe after her retirement from Pratt. Also found are reference images as well as the results of her experimentation with Kodacolor film in the 1980s.

Box 5, Folder 1	Artwork, 1961, undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Artwork, Others, 1981
Box 5, Folder 3	Colorfilm Prints; "Community Gardens", 1980s
Box 5, Folder 4	Exhibitions, 1990
Box 5, Folder 5-7	Family and Friends, 1956-1990s
Box 5, Folder 8	Greenstone, Marion, 1954, 1961
Box 5, Folder 9	Reference, City Walls, 1970s
Box 5, Folder 10	Slides, Greenstone and Others, 1960s
Box 5, Folder 11	Slides, Places, Residences, and Travel, 1950s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 12	Slides, Portraits, 1960, undated

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