



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Werner and Yetta Groshans
Papers, 1928-1997, 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.

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Archives of American Art
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1928-1997.....	4
Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1948-1987.....	6
Series 3: Printed Material, 1948-1994.....	7
Series 4: Photographic Material, 1966-1980.....	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Werner and Yetta Groshans papers
Identifier:	AAA.groswern
Date:	1928-1997
Extent:	2 Linear feet
Creator:	Groshans, Werner, 1913-1986 Groshans, Yetta
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The papers of Werner and Yetta Groshans measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1928 to 1997. The papers document Werner Groshans career as a painter through correspondence, professional files, printed material, and photographs. Correspondence is with friends and colleagues, as well as art collectors, art organizations, and galleries. Also included is a file of correspondence in regards to Groshans jurying exhibitions. Professional material consists of awards and certificates, a statement on art written by Groshans, interviews with Alice Neel on three audio cassettes, a video retrospective on Groshans, and videos documenting Groshans artwork, one recorded just before his death. Printed material consists of magazine and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, artist biographies and reports from the National Academy of Design, and Groshans' obituary. Also found are photographs of Groshans and photographs and slides of his artwork.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Werner Groshans papers were donated to the archives between 1992 and 1997 by Yetta Groshans, widow of Werner Groshans.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Werner and Yetta Groshans papers, 1928-1997. 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

audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Werner Groshans (1913-1986) was a painter in New Jersey and New York. He married Yetta Abromovitz in 1944.

Groshans was born in Germany and moved with his family to the United States at the age of thirteen. He began his studies at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art a year later. As a young adult during the Great Depression, he participated in the Works Progress Administration Easel Project for two years, allowing him to develop as an artist without the worry of finding full-time work. By the early 1960s, his artwork began to gain recognition, and in 1965 he was elected to the National Academy of Design. Groshans often worked from his memory of real places seen in nature, but his strange juxtapositions of objects and figures led William Gerds, a graduate professor at the City University of New York, to describe his style as "Mysterious Realism."

Scope and Contents

The papers of Werner and Yetta Groshans measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1928 to 1997. The papers document Werner Groshans career as a painter through correspondence, professional files, printed material, and photographs. Correspondence is with friends and colleagues, as well as art collectors, art organizations, and galleries. Also included is a file of correspondence in regards to Groshans jurying exhibitions. Professional material consists of awards and certificates, a statement on art written by Groshans, interviews with Alice Neel on three audio cassettes, a video retrospective on Groshans, and videos documenting Groshans artwork, one recorded just before his death. Printed material consists of magazine and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, artist biographies and reports from the National Academy of Design, and Groshans' obituary. Also found are photographs of Groshans and photographs and slides of his artwork.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1928-1997 (1.0 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1948-1987 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1948-1994 (0.6 linear feet; Box 2)

- Series 4: Photographic Material, 1966-1980 (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:

Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Neel, Alice, 1900-1984

Occupations:

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1928-1997

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Correspondence is with friends and colleagues, art collectors, and art organizations and galleries. Also included is a file of correspondence in regards to Groshans jurying exhibitions. Some of the art organization files include other related documentation such as loan agreements.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, 1952-1986
Box 1, Folder 2	B, 1967-1988
Box 1, Folder 3	C-D, 1965-1987
Box 1, Folder 4	E-F, 1961-1987
Box 1, Folder 5	G, 1928-1987
Box 1, Folder 6	H-L, 1953-1992
Box 1, Folder 7	M-P, 1953-1986
Box 1, Folder 8	R-S, 1966-1987
Box 1, Folder 9	T-W, 1965-1989
Box 1, Folder 10	Y-Z, 1965-1988
Box 1, Folder 11	Artists and Collectors, A-BI, 1967-1990
Box 1, Folder 12	Artists and Collectors, Bo-Bu, 1960-1987
Box 1, Folder 13	Artists and Collectors, D-F, 1965-1986
Box 1, Folder 14	Artists and Collectors, G, 1966-1992
Box 1, Folder 15	Artists and Collectors, H-J, 1972-1987
Box 1, Folder 16	Artists and Collectors, K, 1961-1987
Box 1, Folder 17	Artists and Collectors, L-M, 1970-1985

Box 1, Folder 18	Artists and Collectors, N-P, 1979-1986
Box 1, Folder 19	Artists and Collectors, R, 1967-1988
Box 1, Folder 20	Artists and Collectors, S-T, 1954-1987
Box 1, Folder 21	Artists and Collectors, U-Z, 1966-1988
Box 1, Folder 22	Art Organizations, A, 1950-1986
Box 1, Folder 23	Art Organizations, B, 1965-1986
Box 1, Folder 24	Art Organizations, C-D, 1949-1977
Box 1, Folder 25	Art Organizations, E-J, 1963-1977
Box 1, Folder 26	Art Organizations, K-M, 1950-1976
Box 1, Folder 27-28	Art Organizations, N, 1960-1987
Box 1, Folder 29	Art Organizations, O-Z, 1953-1986
Box 1, Folder 30	Galleries, 1952-1987
Box 1, Folder 31	Banfer Gallery, 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 32	Babcock Galleries, 1973-1987
Box 1, Folder 33	Kennedy Gallery, 1972
Box 1, Folder 34	Exhibitions Juried by W. Groshans, 1963-1981
Box 1, Folder 35	Publishers, A-R, 1961-1989
Box 1, Folder 36	Publishers, S-Z, 1970-1986
Box 1, Folder 37-38	Miscellaneous, 1965-1997

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1948-1987

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Professional material consists of awards and certificates, a statement on art written by Groshans, interviews of Alice Neel on three audio cassettes, and three video recordings of Groshans, his artwork, and exhibitions.

Box 2, Folder 1	Awards and Certificates, 1948-1978
Box 2, Folder 2	Alice Neel Interview, 1979 <i>3 Sound cassettes</i> Unclear whether interview spans all three cassettes or if two of the cassettes are duplicates.
Box 2, Folder 3, Item 1	Groshan's Retrospective, 1987 June 20 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Box 2, Folder 3, Item 2	Werner Groshans PSA, 1980 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Box 2, Folder 4	Werner Groshans and His Art, 1987 <i>1 Videocassettes (U-matic)</i>
Box 2, Folder 5	Statement on Art, 1977

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Printed Material, 1948-1994

0.6 Linear feet (Box 2)

Printed material consists of magazine and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, artist biographies and reports from the National Academy of Design, and Groshans' obituary.

Box 2, Folder 6-7	Clippings, 1960-1994
Box 2, Folder 8-10	Exhibition Catalogs, 1948-1994
Box 2, Folder 11	Exhibitions Juried by W. Groshans, 1964-1982
Box 2, Folder 12-14	Magazine Clippings, 1948-1987
Box 2, Folder 15-16	National Academy of Design, 1964-1978
Box 2, Folder 17	Obituaries, 1986
Box 2, Folder 19	Miscellaneous, 1948-1987

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Photographic Material, 1966-1980

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Photographs are of Groshans, works of art by him, exhibition installations and receptions, 1960s-1990; and seventy-five 35mm slides of Groshans works of art.

Box 2, Folder 20 Werner Groshans, 1966-1980

Box 2, Folder 21-22 Artwork, undated

Box 2, Folder 23 Slides, Paintings, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)