



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Maija Grotell papers

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

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Maija Grotell papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.grotmaj
<b>Date:</b>	1923-1973
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Linear feet ((on 2 microfilm reels))
<b>Creator:</b>	Grotell, Maija
<b>Language:</b>	Three letters are in Finnish.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Order and arrangement is that of the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections, Syracuse University.

### Location of Originals

Originals in George Arents Research Library for Special Collections, Syracuse University.

### Related Materials

Slides of Grotell's work located at the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections, Syracuse University.

### Other Finding Aids

A collection inventory prepared by the lender is available at Archives of American Art offices and at the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections, Syracuse University.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 4278-4279 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ceramist and educator. Born 1899. Died 1973. After several years as a textile designer in her native Finland, Grotell immigrated to the United States in 1927. For a short time she studied with Charles Fergus Binns and from 1938 to 1966 she headed the ceramics department at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. During this period, the height of her career, she became one of the leaders in the development of ceramics as a medium of artistic expression. In addition, her research on glazes for Eero Saarinen made possible the widespread architectural use of colored glazed bricks.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical materials, correspondence, awards, photographs, and printed materials relating to the career of the noted ceramist and teacher who devoted the last quarter century of her life to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence consists chiefly of letters received from museums, colleagues (including Charles Eames), friends and former students. Other materials include biographical sketches, resumes, exhibition catalogs and announcements, clippings, scrapbook fragments, a file relating to students and colleagues, a register of funeral visitors, numerous personal and family photographs and five photo albums of Grotell and her work.

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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:

Pottery -- 20th century -- United States  
Women artists -- Michigan

Names:

Cranbrook Academy of Art  
Eames, Charles

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Michigan