



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Sylvia Shaw Judson Papers,
1911-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Sylvia Shaw Judson papers
Identifier:	AAA.hasksylv
Date:	1911-1975
Extent:	4.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Haskins, Sylvia Shaw Judson, 1897-1978
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of sculptor Sylvia Shaw Judson measure 4.3 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1975. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, writings, professional activities files, personal business records, printed material, and photographs of works of art.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Sylvia Shaw Judson papers were donated by her daughter, Alice Judson Ryerson in 1979. The material microfilmed on reels 1490-1495 was initially lent to the Archives for microfilming by the artist's daughter and subsequently given as a gift.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reels 4189-4190, including biographical material, family and personal correspondence primarily between Sylvia Judson and her parents and husband, travel journals, writings, sketchbooks and sketches, printed material, and photos of sculpture study. The material was returned to the lender after microfilming and some was subsequently donated to the Chicago Historical Society. Loaned materials are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1490-1495 and 4189-4190, at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of 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 Jayna Josefson in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Sylvia Shaw Judson papers, 1911-1975. 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.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Sylvia Shaw Judson (1897-1978) was a sculptor and writer active in Chicago, Illinois. Her work *Bird Girl* received popular attention after her death.

Sylvia Shaw Judson, who went by Sylvia Haskins in her personal life, was the daughter of prominent architect Howard Van Doren Shaw and Frances Shaw. She studied with Albin Polasek at the Art Institute of Chicago and went to Paris in 1920 to continue her studies under Antoine Bourdelle at the Academy Grande Chaumiere.

Judson's sculpture often depicts children and animals. Notable works include *Little Gardener* which was included in Rachel "Bunny" Mellon's design for the White House Rose Garden, and *Bird Girl* in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

As an adult, Judson joined the Society of Friends and became an active participant in the church. She died in 1978 in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor Sylvia Shaw Judson measure 4.3 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1975. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, writings, professional activities files, personal business records, printed material, and photographs of works of art.

Biographical materials include resumes and scattered artwork by Judson and others. Correspondence is largely professional and is with artists, galleries, institutions, and museums around the Midwest and the rest of United States. Judson's writings include articles and lectures about art but also include literary writings from her high school years. Material relating to Judson's career as an educator, sculptor, and writer may include research notes, photographs, and business documents. Business records contain receipts and invoices for the production and for the sale of her works. Of note are lists which document the location of her sculptures. Printed materials document Judson's sculpture and art career, and include published books she wrote or illustrated. Photographs are of works of art.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1920-1960 (4 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1920-1975 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1911-1963 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Professional Activities Files, 1933-1968 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1923-1975 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 6: Printed Material, 1913-1970s (0.9 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV6)
 - Series 7: Photographs, circa 1920s-circa 1970s (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 3-6, OV7-8, MGP1)
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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:

Quaker women -- United States
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Occupations:

Sculptors -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1920-circa 1960

4 Folders (Box 1)

Found are biographical sketches and resumes, and artwork by Sylvia Judson and by J. Stoyanvoitch. Of note is a painted sketch of *Bird Girl* which is unsigned.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketches and Resumes, 1936, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 2	Painted Sketch, <i>The Peasant Girl or Bird Girl</i> , circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 3	Sketches, Unsigned (Likely by Sylvia Judson), circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 4	Sketches of Sylvia Judson, by J. Stoyanvoitch, 1920-1921

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1920-1975

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Judson's correspondence primary relates to business and is with artists, foundries and studios, friends, galleries, institutions, and museums. Correspondents include Arden Gallery, Art Exhibition Galleries--Mandel Brothers, Art Institute of Chicago, Dayton Art Institute, Grace Enthof, Erkins Studios, John Asmussen and Sons, Albin Polasek, Mario Ubaldi, Ferruccio Vitale, Bernard Walsh, Helen Ware, The White House, Whitney Museum of American Art, Wheeler Williams, and William Zorach. Also found are typescripts of letters sent by Judson to her family while she was in Paris in the early 1920s.

Box 1, Folder 5	Typescripts, Sylvia to Family (from Paris), 1920-1921
Box 1, Folder 6	General, circa 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 7	General, 1924-1949
Box 1, Folder 8	General, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 9	General, 1960-1966
Box 1, Folder 10	General, 1967-1969
Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1970-1975

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1911-1963

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Found are writings by Judson including drafts of articles, lectures, speeches, early writings from her school days, and notes. Writings by others consist of reviews and criticisms of Judson's sculptures.

Box 1, Folder 12-13	Articles, Lectures, and Speeches, 1939-1963
Box 1, Folder 14	Early Writings, 1911-1915
Box 1, Folder 15	Notes, on Sculptural Techniques and Services, circa 1920-1940s
Box 1, Folder 16	Reviews and Criticisms, by Others, circa 1950

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Series 4: Professional Activities Files, 1933-1968

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Found are subject files regarding Judson's work as a sculptor, educator, and writer. Files may contain correspondence, printed material, business and financial records, research, photographs, and drafts of writings and notes.

Box 1, Folder 17	Cairo, Egypt--Teaching File, 1962-1963
Box 1, Folder 18	<i>For Gardens and Other Places</i> , Clippings and Reviews, 1960s
Box 1, Folder 19-24	Mary Dyer, circa 1955
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Roman Bronze Works (Foundry), 1933-1968
Box 1, Folder 27-29	<i>The Quiet Eye</i> , 1951
Box 2, Folder 1-3	<i>The Quiet Eye</i> , 1951

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Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1923-1975

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2)

Found are account ledgers, contracts, and various invoices and receipts for the production and sale of sculpture.

Box 2, Folder 4-5	Account Ledger, for Sculpture Receipts and Expenses, 1923-1953
Box 2, Folder 6	Art Institute of Chicago, Rental Gallery Records, 1954-1962
Box 2, Folder 7	Contracts, 1930-1965
Box 2, Folder 8	Financial Records, from Publications, 1952-1974
Box 2, Folder 9	Invoices and Receipts, 1955-1975
Box 2, Folder 10	Lists of Buyers and Locations of Sculpture, circa 1950-1960
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Price Lists and Expenses, Sculpture, circa 1950-1960
Box 2, Folder 13	Royalty Payments, 1955-1973

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1913-1970s

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 6)

Printed materials largely concern Judson's sculpture and include art related publications, clippings, exhibition material, and reproductions of works of art. Also found are published copies of books written by Judson, a copy of a book written by her mother and illustrated by Judson, and issues of *The Lantern*, Judson's high school literary magazine.

Box 2, Folder 14-18	Art Periodicals and Publications, 1920s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 19	Book, <i>Songs of a Baby's Day</i> , By Frances Shaw, Illustrated by Sylvia Shaw, 1914
Box 2, Folder 20	Books, by Sylvia Judson, 1950s
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Clippings, 1920s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 23	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1919-1967
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1919-1967
Box 3, Folder 3-4	<i>The Lantern</i> , Westover School Literary Magazine, 1913-1915
Box 3, Folder 5-6	Reproductions of Works of Art, 1950s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 2	Reproductions of Works of Art, Oversized, 1950s-1960s

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1920s-circa 1970s

1.9 Linear feet (Box 3-6, OVs 7-8, MGP1)

Photographs depict Sylvia Shaw Judson's sculpture and photos may be of the work in situ or in a studio. Some files may include photos of Judson or others with various sculpture. The file for *Corwin & Noah* includes an original drawing of the work by Judson. Also found here are 12 glass plate negatives.

Box 3, Folder 7	4-H Club, 1970s
Box 3, Folder 8	<i>Ancestor</i> , 1950
Box 3, Folder 9-13	Animals, circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 14	<i>Apple Tree Children</i> , circa 1920s
Box 3, Folder 15	<i>Baptismal Boy and Girl</i> , circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 16	<i>Bird Girl or Peasant Girl</i> , circa 1930-1961
Box 3, Folder 17-18	Birds, 1930s-1960s
Box 3, Folder 19	<i>Boy in Overalls</i> , 1940s
Box 3, Folder 20	<i>Boy Reading</i> , 1960s
Box 3, Folder 21	<i>Boy with Bird and Basin</i> , 1940s
Box 3, Folder 22	<i>Corwin & Noah</i> , 1950s
Box 3, Folder 23	<i>Dog and Boy</i> , 1940s
Box 3, Folder 24	Early Work, 1910s-1930s
Box 3, Folder 25	Edison Building Relief, 1920s
Box 3, Folder 26	Fort San Antonio Abad, Plaque, 1923-1929
Box 3, Folder 27	<i>Fountain Nude</i> , circa 1950s-1960
Box 3, Folder 28	<i>Girl with Squirrel</i> , circa 1940s-1950s
Box 3, Folder 29	<i>Head and Ura</i> , circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 30	Humans, 1950s-1960s

Box 3, Folder 31	L. F. Hospital Stone Sculpture, 1940s
Box 3, Folder 32	<i>Little Brother</i> , circa 1920-1949
Box 3, Folder 33	<i>Little Gardener</i> , 1930s
Box 3, Folder 34	Mary Dyer, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 1	<i>Merchild</i> , 1930s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 2	<i>Naughty Fawn</i> , 1930s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 3	<i>Nude for Lily Pond</i> , circa 1940
Box 4, Folder 4	<i>Pamela</i> , circa 1940
Box 4, Folder 5	Portraits, 1930s
Box 4, Folder 6	<i>Prima Vera</i> , 1940s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 7	<i>Raintree Fountain</i> , 1950s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 8	Religious Sculpture, 1930s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 9	<i>Seasons</i> , 1940s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 10	<i>Shepherd</i> , 1920s-1930s
Box 4, Folder 11	<i>Sister Frances</i> , 1930s
Box 4, Folder 12	<i>Stunts</i> , 1920s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 13	Roosevelt Memorial Fountain, 1940s
Box 4, Folder 14	<i>Susie Playing Recorder</i> , 1950s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 15	<i>Triton</i> , circa 1940-1950
Box 4, Folder 16	<i>Violin</i> , Norman Ross Friend of Ravinia Memorial, circa 1953
Box 5, Folder 1	<i>Young Woman</i> , circa 1940s-1950s

Box 5, Folder 2-6	Negatives of Works of Art, 1920s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 1	Photographs of Works of Art, Oversized, circa 1920s-1950s
Oversize 7	Photographs of Works of Art, Oversized, circa 1920s-1950s
Oversize 8	Portfolio of Works of Art, Oversized, circa 1920s-1950s
Item MGP1	Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1920s

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