



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Dorothy Heller Papers, 1947-circa 1981, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Dorothy Heller papers   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1947-circa 1981   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.helldoro  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Heller, Dorothy, 1926-  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.3 Linear feet   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The scattered papers of abstract painter Dorothy Heller measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1947 to circa 1981. Found are biographical material, lecture materials on Heller by Charles Ponce and Betty Parsons, photographs, printed material, five sketchbooks, and sketches. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Dorothy Heller donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1977 and 1981.

### Processing Information

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

Dorothy Heller papers, 1947-circa 1981. 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

Dorothy Heller (1917-2003) was an abstract painter in New York City, New York. She studied at the Art Students League and was a pupil of Hans Hofmann. She worked primarily in acrylic and exhibited widely throughout the United States over the course of her career.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of abstract painter Dorothy Heller measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1947 to circa 1981. Found are biographical material, lecture materials on Heller by Charles Ponce and Betty Parsons, photographs, printed material, five sketchbooks, and sketches.

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## Arrangement

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

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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:

Women artists  
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Occupations:

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

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Dorothy Heller Papers, 1947-circa 1981

#### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes a biographical sketch of Heller by Arthur Minters and a photocopy of an award. Lecture materials by Charles Ponce and Betty Parsons are annotated by Heller. Photographs depict Heller in her studio and her paintings. Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and reproductions of works of art. Five sketchbooks are dated and signed and include charcoal and pencil sketches of abstract works and studies of figures. Also found are charcoal, ink, and painted sketches.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1   | Biographical Material, 1965-1976        |
| Box 1, Folder 2   | Lectures, 1970-1976                     |
| Box 1, Folder 3   | Photographs, 1968                       |
| Oversize 2        | Photograph, Oversized, 1968             |
| Box 1, Folder 4   | Printed Material, 1956-1977             |
| Oversize 2        | Printed Material, Oversized, circa 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 5-6 | Sketchbooks, 1954-1968                  |
| Box 1, Folder 7   | Sketches, 1947-circa 1981               |

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