



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Kate Helsy Papers, 1915-1976, 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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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Kate Helsy papers
<b>Date:</b>	1915-1976
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.helskate
<b>Creator:</b>	Helsy, Kate
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of painter and art teacher Kate Helsy measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1976. Papers include a biographical sketch, correspondence to and from Helsy, photographs, printed material, and a mixed media scrapbook.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Kate Helsy donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1976.

### 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

Kate Helsy papers, 1915-1976. 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

Kate Helsy (1911-?) was a painter and art teacher active in New York City, New York.

Helsy was born in Hungary and studied at the Jaschick School and exhibited with the New Realist Artists Group. She settled in the United States in 1941 after spending some time in Cuba and exhibited her work at Roko Gallery. In addition to her painting career, Helsy taught children's art classes at the Mount Vernon Y.M.H.A. and the Brooklyn Museum.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter and art teacher Kate Helsy measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1976. Papers include a biographical sketch, correspondence to and from Helsy, photographs, printed material, and a mixed media scrapbook.

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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

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Kate Helsy Papers, 1915-1976

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes one biographical sketch of Helsy. Correspondence includes letters addressed to "friends" written by Helsy as updates on her life and career. Letters to Helsy include a recommendation letter as well as notes from friends. Printed material consists of clippings and exhibition announcements and catalogs. Childhood photographs are of Helsy's family in Hungary and include a photo of her school class in 1925. Also found are photos of Helsy in New York City in the 1960s and 1970s and photos of works of art. A mixed media scrapbook includes exhibition material paired with photographs of the works of art shown.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, circa 1963
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, to Helsy, 1952-1972
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, from Helsy, circa 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs, of Helsey, 1915-1970
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs, of Works of Art, circa 1960-1976
Box 1, Folder 6	Printed Material, 1952-1965
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Scrapbook, 1949-1976

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