



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Natalie S. Henry and Rowena Fry Papers, 1927-1987, in the Archives of American Art

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2022/03/14

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Natalie S. Henry and Rowena Fry papers
Date:	1927-1987
Identifier:	AAA.henmata
Creator:	Fry, Rowena, 1901- Henry, Natalie S. (Natalie Smith), 1907-1992
Extent:	0.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1989 by Natalie S. Henry.

Location of Originals

Originals in the possession of Natalie S. Henry.

Reproduction Note

About half of this collection consists of photocopies.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Natalie S. Henry and Rowena Fry Papers, 1929-1987. 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

Natalie Henry (1907-1992) was a muralist active in Chicago, Illinois. Rowena Fry (1892-1990) was a painter and educator active in Chicago, Illinois.

Natalie Henry was best known for her post office murals completed under the United States Department of the Treasury. She managed the art supply store at the Art Institute of Chicago from 1948 until her retirement in 1972. Fry was born in Alabama and moved to Chicago in 1923 to study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Henry and Fry attended the Hubert Ropp School of Art. Both exhibited regularly at the Chicago Society of Artists and the Art Institute of Chicago during the 1930s and 1940s. Henry and Fry shared an apartment in the Lambert Tree Studios Building from 1948 until moving back to their respective family homes in Arkansas and Tennessee in the 1980s. In 1989, Fry joined Henry in her home in Malvern, Arkansas.

Scope and Contents

Biographical material assembled by Henry on herself (1929-1987) and Rowena Fry (1927-1987) consists of brief typescripts, letters, clippings, exhibition catalogs, samples of Christmas cards designed by Henry and Fry, a print "Bird's Tree in Winter" by Henry (1968), and photographs of works of art. The material emphasizes Henry's mural for the Springdale, Arkansas post office, commissioned for the Section of Fine Arts, and her work for the Oscar Mayer Company. A subject file contains clippings (1958-1987) concerning Hubert Ropp, Dean of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, who had a great influence on the careers of Henry and Fry.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Art -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Federal aid to the arts
- Women artists
- Women painters

Names:

- Ropp, Hubert, 1894-1973
- United States. Dept. of the Treasury. Section of Fine Arts

Occupations:

- Muralists -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Natalie Henry and Rowena Fry Papers, 1929-1987

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV2)

Scope and Contents: Found are compiled and annotated artist files on Natalie Henry, Rowena Fry, and Hubert Ropp. Biographical information, exhibition announcements and catalogs, lists of works of art, original artwork, clippings, correspondence, and notes may be found.

The material was arranged by Natalie Henry and original order has been maintained.

Box 1, Folder 1	Natalie Henry Papers, 1929-1939
Box 1, Folder 2	Natalie Henry Papers, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 3	Natalie Henry Papers, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Natalie Henry Papers, 1964-1987
Box 1, Folder 5	Rowena Fry Papers, 1927-1939
Box 1, Folder 6	Rowena Fry Papers, 1940-1949
Oversize 2, Folder 1	Rowena Fry Papers, Oversized, 1945
Box 1, Folder 7	Rowena Fry Papers, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 8	Rowena Fry Papers, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 9	Rowena Fry Papers, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 10	Rowena Fry Papers, 1980-1987
Box 1, Folder 11	Hubert Ropp Papers, 1958-1987

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