



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Charles and Leta English Hess papers

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Charles and Leta English Hess papers
<b>Date:</b>	1895-1987
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hessleta
<b>Creator:</b>	Hess, Leta English, 1921- Hess, Charles, 1921-
<b>Extent:</b>	2.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1990 and 1997 by Charles Hess.

### Available Formats

Ten letters from Stanton Macdonald-Wright to Charles Hess (1954-1965) were microfilmed on reel 4386 and are available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painters, art instructor; California.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical material, correspondence, photographs, writings, a scrapbook, and printed material document the Hess family and the painting and teaching careers of Leta English Hess and her husband Charles Hess.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical materials (1921-1986) include birth and death certificates, documents pertaining to Leta Hess' father Joe English, a memoir written by her mother, Mae Serrano English (1975), diplomas, teaching certificates, awards, resumes, and her diary (1935-1939). Correspondence consists of letters received (ca. 1940-1980); files for individual

correspondents, including Alan Bayles, Charles Hess, Leta's son Chuck Hess, Mimi Lawrence, and Frank Rivera; and files for the Corcoran Biennial Exhibitions (1956-1961) and the Leta and Charles Hess Retrospective Exhibition (1983-1986). Also found are ten letters from Stanton Macdonald-Wright to Hess (1954-1965) relating to his views of the relationship between patrons and artists, the 1956 Paris art scene, contemporary art criticism, the art market, and his break with the Duveen Graham Gallery.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs show Leta Hess (1920s, 1940s), her paintings and exhibition installations (ca. 1942-1985), and family members, including Joe and Mae Serrano English, Charles Hess, and their children (1950s-1980s); and slides of Hess' work. Writings by Leta Hess include term papers, a statement of intent for her Master of Arts degree (1954), notes on painting (1960, 1975-1986), some written jointly with Charles Hess, and lecture notes (ca. 1953-1964). A scrapbook pertaining to her art and teaching contains a curriculum vitae, a 2 p. essay on painting, clippings of reviews, exhibition announcements, photographs of exhibitions, and copies of letters concerning awards and exhibitions.

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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:

- Painting -- Study and teaching
- Painting, American
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

### Names:

- Hess, Leta English, 1921-
- Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973
- Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962

### Occupations:

- Art teachers -- California
- Painters -- California