



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Hilaire Hiler papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<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>	Hilaire Hiler papers
<b>Date:</b>	1925-1966
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hilehila
<b>Creator:</b>	Hiler, Hilaire, 1898-1966
<b>Extent:</b>	3.4 Linear feet ((on 6 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1967-1968 by Hilaire Hiler.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 611-614 & D302-D302a available 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

Mural painter, designer, decorator, writer; New York, N.Y. and Paris.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence; printed materials; art works and miscellaneous papers.

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## Scope and Contents

REELS D302-D302a: Correspondence, some dating from Hiler's years in Paris in the 1920s; autobiographical and biographical material; published articles by Hiler, "Costumes and Ideologies," "Some Associative Aspects of Color," "Structuralism," "The Search for a Method of Graphic Expression," and "The Origin and Development of Structural Design;" the book *Why Abstract*, co-authored by him; exhibition catalogs; magazine articles on and about him; and miscellaneous papers. Some material on D302 has been duplicated on reel D302a.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondents include: Faber Birren, Kay Boyle, Marc Connelly, Caresse Crosby, Nancy Cunard (11 items), Ben Cunningham (to Hiler's daughter), John Ferren, Al Hirschfeld, Carl Holty (5 items, up to 14 p. each), Robert Bruce Inverarity, Gyorgy Kepes, Katharine Kuh, Rico Lebrun, Fernand Leger, Albert W. Levi, Paul Mathews, Henry Miller, Abraham Rattner, Man Ray, Ad Reinhardt, Meyer Schapiro, Charles P. Snow, Edgar Varese, Herbert G. Wells, and William Carlos Williams.

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## Scope and Contents

In the 5 Holty letters, up to 14 p. each, Holty comments on aesthetics, color theory, the work of Abraham Rattner, Holty's painting, the history of modern art after WWII, and his trip across America with Henry Miller and Rattner.

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## Scope and Contents

REELS 611-614: Personal and business correspondence, bills and receipts, certificates, licenses, membership cards; 2 sketchbooks, and 17 loose sketches, many with notes and instructions; 3 notebooks, containing miscellaneous writings, clippings and sketches; 37 illustrations and diagrams, possibly for a book; 119 miscellaneous items relating to color and design; articles and short stories; writings on structuralism, including a copy of the typescript for COLOR AND DESIGN: A STRUCTURALIST APPROACH; a typed draft of Hiler's autobiography (292 p.); 14 exhibition catalogs and announcements; 20 clippings, and printed material; and miscellaneous papers.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondents include America's Artists in Particular (organization), O'Brien Boldt, Kay Boyle, Ben Cunningham, Jerome Flax, the Foundation for Intergrated Education, Jay H. Herz, Gyorgy Kepes, Charles Lavell, Jim Moran, Henry Schnakenberg, and George Wittenborn.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

America's Artists in Particular  
Birren, Faber, 1900-  
Boldt, O'Brien  
Boyle, Kay, 1902-  
Connelly, Marc, 1890-  
Crosby, Caresse, 1892-  
Cunard, Nancy, 1896-1965  
Cunningham, Ben, 1904-1975

Ferren, John, 1905-1970  
Flax, Jerome  
Foundation for Integrated Education  
Herz, Jay H.  
Hiler, Hilaire, 1898-1966 -- Color and design : a structuralist approach  
Hiler, Hilaire, 1898-1966 -- Why abstract  
Hirschfeld, Al  
Holty, Carl, 1900-1973  
Inverarity, Robert Bruce, 1909-1999  
Kepes, Gyorgy, 1906-2001  
Kuh, Katharine  
Lavell, Charles  
Lebrun, Rico, 1900-1964  
Levi, Albert William, 1911-  
Léger, Fernand, 1881-1955  
Mathews, Paul  
Miller, Henry, 1891-1980  
Moran, Jim  
Rattner, Abraham  
Ray, Man, 1890-1976  
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967  
Schapiro, Meyer, 1904-  
Schnakenberg, H. E. (Henry Ernest), 1892-1970  
Snow, C. P. (Charles Percy), 1905-  
Varèse, Edgard, 1883-1965  
Wells, H. G. (Herbert George), 1866-1946  
Williams, William Carlos, 1883-1963  
Wittenborn, George, 1905-1974

Occupations:

Artists -- France -- Paris