



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Laura Coombs Hills Papers, 1863-1952, 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/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Laura Coombs Hills papers
<b>Date:</b>	1863-1952
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hillaur
<b>Creator:</b>	Hills, Laura Coombs, 1859-1952
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of painter Laura Coombs Hills measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1863 to 1952. Found are artworks including painted sketches and needlepoint designs, biographical material, correspondence, photographs, and printed material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Elizabeth Swan, the great-niece of Laura Hills, donated the Laura Coombs Hills papers to the Archives of American Art in 1979.

### 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

Laura Coombs Hills papers, 1863-1952. 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

Laura Coombs Hills (1859-1952) was a painter from Newburyport and Boston, Massachusetts. She is known for miniature portraits, floral still-life works, and illustrations for children's books.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter Laura Coombs Hills measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1863 to 1952. Found are artworks including painted sketches and needlepoint designs, biographical material, correspondence, photographs, and printed material.

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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

Occupations:

- Miniature painters -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Watercolorists -- Massachusetts -- Boston

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Laura Coombs Hills Papers, 1863-1952

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Artworks include small oil sketches, watercolors, needlepoint designs, and sketches of fairies and ladybugs, possibly for children's books. Of note is a watercolor landscape noted to be Hills's first watercolor done at the age of four. Biographical materials include a biographical sketch and a diploma. Letters are written by Hills to her niece, Elizabeth McKay. Photographs depict Hills, her studio, Hill at events, and Hill's family. A tintype is of Hills as a young child with Laura Stevens. Many of the photos are of sisters Laura Coombs Hills, Louise Hills, and Lizzie Hills. Some photos of events include invitations. Printed material consists of clippings, published needlepoint designs and reproductions of works of art.

Box 1, Folder 1-2      Artwork, Painted Sketches and Drawings, 1863-circa 1910

Box 1, Folder 3      Artwork, Needlepoint Designs, circa 1910

Box 1, Folder 4      Biographical Material, 1875-1952

Box 1, Folder 5      Correspondence, 1946-1951

Box 1, Folder 6      Photographs, circa 1865-1920s

Box 1, Folder 7      Printed Material, 1900-1952

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