



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Peter Hurd Papers relating to the Section of Fine Arts, 1936-1951, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/02/04

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Peter Hurd papers relating to the Section of Fine Arts
Date:	1936-1951
Identifier:	AAA.hurdpetp
Creator:	Hurd, Peter, 1904-1984 United States. Department of the Treasury. Section of Fine Arts
Extent:	1 Microfilm reel
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Peter Hurd papers relating to the Section of Fine Arts date from 1936 to 1951. Found is correspondence concerning the Treasury Department art programs, including letters from Edward B. Rowan and Forbes Watson. Other letters concern mural completions in New Mexico and Texas. Also found are printed materials published by the Section of Fine Arts which concern Hurd's murals for the project.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1964 by Peter Hurd.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to Peter Hurd after microfilming.

Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on Reel NDA01. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel NDA01 and was returned to Peter Hurd after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Peter Hurd papers regarding the Section of Fine Arts, 1936-1951. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

Peter Hurd (1904-1984) was a muralist, painter, and writer in New Mexico. He is known for his murals completed under the Section of Fine Arts, Treasury Department during the Depression.

Scope and Contents

The Peter Hurd papers relating to the Section of Fine Arts date from 1936 to 1951. Found is correspondence concerning the Treasury Department art programs, including letters from Edward B. Rowan and Forbes Watson. Other letters concern mural completions in New Mexico and Texas. Also found are printed materials published by the Section of Fine Arts which concern Hurd's murals for the project.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is 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:

New Deal, 1933-1939 -- New Mexico
New Deal, 1933-1939 -- Texas

Names:

Rowan, Edward Beatty, 1898-1946
Watson, Forbes, 1880-1960

Occupations:

Muralists -- New Mexico
Painters -- New Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: Section of Fine Arts Material, 1936-1951

Scope and Contents: Correspondence contains letters regarding Hurd's participation with the Section of Fine Arts, Treasury Department and includes letters from Edward B. Rowan and Forbes Watson. Letters concern the competition for post office murals in New Mexico and Texas and Hurd's specific murals. Printed material consists of Section of Fine Arts bulletins and a copy of HR 8239 which would create a permanent Bureau of Fine Arts.

Reel NDA01.hurd,
Frame 601-657 [Correspondence, 1937-1940](#)

Reel NDA01.hurd,
Frame 671-674 [Correspondence, 1937-1940](#)

Reel NDA01.hurd,
Frame 723-726 [Correspondence, 1936-1951](#)

Reel NDA01.hurd,
Frame 658-670 [Printed Material, 1937-1940](#)

Reel NDA01.hurd,
Frame 675-722 [Printed Material, 1937-1940](#)

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