



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Chris K. Ishii papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Chris K. Ishii papers
Date:	[ca. 1940] - 1999
Identifier:	AAA.ishichri
Creator:	Ishii, Chris K., 1919-2001
Extent:	23 Items
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2001 by Chris K. Ishii and his daughter, Naka Ishii. Additions are expected.

Other Finding Aids

Folder inventory available at Archives of American Art's D.C. office.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Los Angeles, California, and New York painter, animator, and illustrator Chris Ishii (1919-2001) attended the Chouinard School of Art (now Cal Arts) in Los Angeles and upon graduation worked for Walt Disney Studios. Prior to World War II he furnished art and designs for *Fantasia* *The Reluctant Dragon* and *Dumbo*.

Ishii was interned at Granada (Colorado) Concentration Camp and in 1943 joined the U.S. Army Intelligence Service (1943-1946). During the war he illustrated propaganda leaflets for the Burma, China, and India theatre. After leaving California for New York worked for United Productions of America (UPA) before becoming an independent animator. In 1951 he traveled to Paris on the GI Bill to study at the Académie Julian with Fernand Léger. He designed and directed countless commercials, and industrial, educational, live-action, and feature films.

Ishii also worked on James Thurber's *A Unicorn in the Garden*, Ludwig Bemelman's *Madeline* and Academy Award winning *Gerald McBoing Boing*, and on several *Mr. Magoo* short subjects. One of his animations, the Snow White sequence, appeared in Woody Allen's *Annie Hall*.

Ishii died in Westchester County, New York, on November 6, 2001.

Scope and Contents

Newspaper articles (1944-1997), original drawings of illustrations for "Gourmet" magazine, photocopies of propaganda leaflets distributed by U.S. Intelligence in the Burma, China, India theatre during World War II, photographs of Ishii at work in his studio, and slides.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Occupations:

Animators

Illustrators -- United States

Painters -- United States