



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ruth Barker Johnston Papers, 1940-1948, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2022/11/16

Archives of American Art  
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<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>	Ruth Barker Johnston papers
<b>Date:</b>	1940-1948
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.johnruth
<b>Creator:</b>	Johnston, Ruth Barker, 1914-1996
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of jeweler and educator Ruth Barker Johnston measure 0.2 linear feet, date from 1940 to 1948, and relate to Johnston's work teaching metal work courses to wounded United States soldiers during and after World War II. Found are letters, an article written by Johnston, printed material, and project files for the American Red Cross Training Corps and the Forest Glen Convalescent Section at Walter Reed General Hospital.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1998 by Carol Snow, daughter of Johnston.

### 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

Ruth Barker Johnston papers, 1940-1948. 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

Ruth Barker Johnston (1914-1996) was a metal-worker, jeweler, and educator in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Arizona.

Johnston received a B.A. from Skidmore College where she later taught jewelry and design from 1935 to 1939. She was awarded an M.A. in art education from Columbia University in 1941 and was involved in the American Red Cross recreational and occupational therapy program for World War II veterans. From 1968 to 1995 Johnston lived in Tucson, Arizona, where she was a member of the Arizona Designer Craftsmen, the Tucson Craft Guild, the Society of North American Goldsmiths, and the Tucson Museum of Art.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of jeweler and educator Ruth Barker Johnston measure 0.2 linear feet, date from 1940 to 1948, and relate to Johnston's work teaching metal work courses to wounded United States soldiers during and after World War II. Found are letters, an article written by Johnston, printed material, and project files for the American Red Cross Training Corps and the Forest Glen Convalescent Section at Walter Reed General Hospital.

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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 educators
- Women jewelers

Occupations:

- Educators -- Arizona -- Tucson
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Educators -- Washington (D.C.)
- Jewelers -- Arizona -- Tucson
- Jewelers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Jewelers -- Washington (D.C.)
- Metal-workers -- Arizona -- Tucson
- Metal-workers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Metal-workers -- Washington (D.C.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Ruth Barker Johnston Papers, 1940-1948

#### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Generally, correspondence relates to the acquisition of raw material for jewelry making and includes letters from Margaret Crower, Handy and Harmon, Edward Rowan, and Emmy Sommer. The bulk of the collection consists of two project files containing administrative and planning information, correspondence, financial records, lists and notes, and printed material relating to an American Red Cross Training Corps course (1948) and the Forest Glen Convalescent Section of Walter Reed General Hospital metalwork class (1944). Also found is an article written by Johnston concerning work with wounded G.I.'s for the Skidmore alumni bulletin. Printed material consists of a clipping and an exhibition announcement on metalwork.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1940-1948
Box 1, Folder 2	"Metal Work for Wounded G.I.'s" by Ruth Johnston, 1944
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, 1948
Box 1, Folder 4	Project File, American Red Cross Training Corps, 1948
Box 1, Folder 5	Project File, Forest Glen Convalescent Section of Walter Reed General Hospital, 1944

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