



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ethel Katz Papers, 1883-1974, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ethel Katz papers
Date:	1883-1974
Identifier:	AAA.katzethe
Creator:	Katz, Ethel, 1895-1989
Extent:	1.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Ethel Katz date from 1883 to 1974 and measure 1.7 linear feet. The scattered papers include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, extensive sketches and sketchbooks, and writings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Ethel Katz donated her papers in several installments from 1972 to 1977.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection were microfilmed on 35mm microfilm reel 836, which is available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm. Photographs of Theophile Schneider have been digitized and are available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Ethel Katz papers, 1883-1974. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Ethel Katz (1895-1989) was a painter and educator active in New York City, New York. She was a longtime instructor at the Art Students League.

Ethel Katz was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1895 to painter Theophile Schneider, and Julia Schneibler. Katz began her formal art education at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, continued at the Art Students League, and completed a summer term in Colorado with Randall Davey. Katz returned to the Art Students League in 1943 where she taught Saturday classes for young adults and children. During World War II, Katz volunteered with the Greater New York Bureau of Arts and Decorations for the American Women's Voluntary Services and with the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office.

Katz produced many landscape paintings, inspired by her trips to Colorado and the United States West, New England, and Eastern Canada. Her works were exhibited at Midtown Galleries, Weyhe Galleries, and the New York Water Color Club among many others. She showed her work in a father and daughter exhibit at the Riverside Museum in 1938.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Ethel Katz date from 1883 to 1974 and measure 1.7 linear feet. The scattered papers include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, extensive sketches and sketchbooks, and writings.

Letters are from Katz's relatives in France, galleries, art organizations, and the Civil Defense Volunteer Office regarding her work during World War II. Other correspondents include her pupils and colleagues from the Art Students League, including Patricia Hand, Marjorie and Hon-Chew Hee, Jose Morales, and Stewart Klonis. One letter dated 1883 is from Katz's father, painter Theophile Schneider written upon arrival in the United States. Photographs depict Katz, her family, her friends, and her paintings, and Theophile Schneider. Writings are on art and include art supply lists and outlines for class lectures at the Art Students League. Katz's sketches, drawings and sketchbooks comprise the bulk of the collection, and include figure drawings and landscape sketches from the United States West, New England, and Eastern Canada. Works by others are by Isabel Bishop and Patricia Hand.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are 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:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Sketchbooks

Names:

Bishop, Isabel, 1902-1988
Gallagher, Sears, 1869-1955
Hand, Patricia
Hee, Marjorie Wong
Schneider, Theophile, b. 1872

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Ethel Katz Papers, 1883-1974

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Letters are from Katz's relatives in France, galleries, art organizations, and the Civil Defense Volunteer Office regarding Katz's work during World War II. Other correspondents include her pupils and colleagues from the Art Students League including Patricia Hand, Marjorie and Hon-Chew Hee, Jose Morales, and Stewart Klonis. One letter is from Theophile Schneider.

Photographs depict Katz, her family, her friends, and her paintings, and her father Theophile Schneider. Photographers include Alman & Co., Laura Gilpin, William Charles Nortzel, J. E. Purdy, and G. Schuhmann.

Writings are on art and include art supply lists and outlines for class lectures at the Art Students League.

Katz's sketches, drawings and sketchbooks comprise the bulk of the collection, and include figure drawings and landscape sketches from the United States West, New England, and Eastern Canada. Sketches may include notations on location and color. Sixty-four figure drawings are done in silverpoint. Works by other include a painted sketch of Katz by Isabel Bishop and of illustrated greeting cards by Patricia Hand.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketches and Resumes, circa 1920s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1883
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1920-1929
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1960-1974
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, circa 1920s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 8	Membership Records, circa 1930, 1972
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, of Ethel Katz, and with Family and Friends, circa 1900-1970s
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, of Theophile Schneider, circa 1890-circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs, of Family, circa 1900-1950s
Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs, of Works of Art, 1950s
Box 3, Folder 4	Photographs, Oversized, circa 1900-circa 1930

Box 1, Folder 13	Printed Material , 1939-1959
Box 3, Folder 3	Printed Material, Oversized, 1959
Box 1, Folder 14	Sketches, Birds, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 15	Sketches, Canyons (Black, Box, and Unicorn), circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 16	Sketches, Engineer Mountain, Yankee Boy Basin, and Camp Bird, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 17	Sketches, Figures, 1935
Box 1, Folder 18	Sketches, L'Dorrado and Red Mountains, East Ridge, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 19	Sketches, Little Bay Islands, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 20	Sketches, Mancos Shale, Uravan, Colorado, 1929-1931
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Sketches, Matinicus Isle, Maine, 1955
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Sketches, Nipper's Harbour and Village, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 25	Sketches, Noble Cove and Islands, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 26	Sketches, South Coast, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 27	Sketches, St. John's, Newfoundland Canada, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 28	Sketches, Telluride and Vicinity, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 29	Sketches, Theater, Circus, and Animals, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 30	Sketches, General, circa 1930
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Sketches, Oversized, circa 1930-1950
Box 2, Folder 1-7	Sketches, Sketchbooks, circa 1930-1968
Box 2, Folder 8	Sketch (Painted), by Isabel Bishop, circa 1920-1921
Box 2, Folder 9	Sketch, Illustrated Greeting Cards by Pat Hand, circa 1940-1950
Box 2, Folder 10	Writings and Notes, General, circa 1940-1950
Box 2, Folder 11	Writings and Notes, Art Students League Lectures and Supplies, circa 1950

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