



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

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

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received federal support from the Collections Care Initiative Fund, administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

2020/10/27

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Collection Overview .....                   | 1 |
| Administrative Information .....            | 1 |
| Scope and Contents.....                     | 2 |
| Biographical / Historical.....              | 2 |
| Arrangement.....                            | 2 |
| Names and Subjects .....                    | 2 |
| Container Listing .....                     | 4 |
| Series 1: Ethel Katz Papers, 1883-1974..... | 4 |

## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Ethel Katz papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1883-1974  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.katzethe   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Katz, Ethel, 1895-1989   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1.7 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

---

## 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  | <a href="#">Correspondence, 1883</a>                                      |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | <a href="#">Correspondence, 1920-1929</a>                                 |
| 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 |

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*