



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Adaline Kent Papers, 1937-1958, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Adaline Kent papers
Date:	1937-1958
Identifier:	AAA.kentadal
Creator:	Kent, Adaline Dutton, 1900-1957
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of California-based sculptor Adaline Dutton Kent measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1937 to 1958. The collection focuses on the latter half of Kent's professional career documented through biographical materials, scattered correspondence, two notebooks, personal business records, photographs, printed material, four sketchbooks and loose sketches, and writings and notes. Also found is a project file regarding a design for an opera with sketches, a script, and printed material, and printed material on painter Charles Howard, who was Kent's brother-in-law.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Robert Boardman Howard, Kent's widower, donated the papers to the Archives of American Art in 1974.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on reels 2041-2042, and 2062 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.

Processing Information

The papers were microfilmed on reels 2042-2042 and 2062 after receipt. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Adaline Kent papers, 1937-1958. 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

Adaline Kent (1900-1957) was a sculptor in San Francisco, California who began her career creating figure-based sculpture and whose later works were inspired by nature and the landscape of California. Kent, who was married to artist Robert Boardman Howard, died in 1957 in a car accident along the Pacific Coast Highway.

Scope and Contents

The papers of California-based sculptor Adaline Dutton Kent measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1937 to 1958. The collection focuses on the latter half of Kent's professional career documented through biographical materials, scattered correspondence, two notebooks, personal business records, photographs, printed material, four sketchbooks and loose sketches, and writings and notes. Also found is a project file regarding a design for an opera with sketches, a script, and printed material, and printed material on painter Charles Howard, who was Kent's brother-in-law.

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 sculptors

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Howard, Charles, 1899-1978
Howard, Robert Boardman, 1896-1983

Occupations:

Sculptors -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Adaline Kent Papers, 1937-1958

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include an award ribbon, a resume, a biographical sketch on Kent by Grace Morley, and records from Kent's service with the United States Coastal Reserve during World War II. The file of service records includes photographs of Kent in uniform with other female reservists. Scattered correspondence relates to Kent's professional career and also includes drafts of outgoing letters to institutions and gallerists, including Betty Parsons. Two notebooks contain notes and may include scattered sketches from vacations and trips. Personal business records consist of price lists and sales records. Also found is a legal affidavit for insurance claims regarding the damage of a sculpture.

Photographs are of Kent, at work, in her studio, exhibitions, source material, and works of art. Of note are photos of Kent at various California National Parks. Printed materials focus on Kent's career and include clippings, exhibition announcements, and catalogs. Also found are exhibition catalogs for Charles Howard, Kent's brother-in-law. A published book entitled *Auto Biography: from the Notebooks and Sculpture of Adaline Kent* was published after her death. A project file is for Kent's stage design for an opera and includes a sketch, printed material, and a script. Four sketchbooks and loose sketches contain pastel, pen, and pencil sketches. Writings and notes describe a plane ride, lectures, and art in general. Also found is an untitled writing on the process of creating art by Mark Rothko.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1948-1958
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, United States Coastal Reserve, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1944-1958
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Notebooks, 1940s-1954
Box 1, Folder 6	Personal Business Records, 1955-1958
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs, of Adaline Kent, circa 1940-1957
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs, Exhibitions, 1955-1958
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, Source Material, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 10-13	Photographs, Works of Art, 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Material, Book, 1958
Box 1, Folder 15	Printed Material, Clippings, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1946-1958

Box 1, Folder 18 Printed Material, on Charles Howard, 1944-1945

Box 1, Folder 19 Project File, Opera Stage Design, 1955

Box 1, Folder 20-22 Sketchbooks, 1937-1950s

Box 1, Folder 23 Sketches, circa 1940s-1950s

Box 1, Folder 24-26 Writings and Notes, Adaline Kent, 1937-1950s

Box 1, Folder 27 Writings and Notes, Mark Rothko, circa 1950

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