



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Harold Leeds Papers, 1940s- circa 2002, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

2016 May 12

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
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Letters, 1950s-1970.....	4
Series 2: Photographic Material, 1940s-circa 2002.....	5

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Harold Leeds papers
Date:	1940s-circa 2002
Identifier:	AAA.leedharo
Creator:	Leeds, Harold E., 1913-2002
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	<p>The papers of architect Harold E. Leeds measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1940s-circa 2002. The letters found here are primarily from painter Loren MacIver writing from France, during which time Leeds looked after the home belonging to MacIver and her husband, poet Lloyd Frankenberg. While mainly logistical in nature, MacIver does describe aspects of her daily life in France, and her and Frankenberg's friendships with prominent figures including Margaret Barr, Elizabeth Bishop, Pierre Matisse, and James Johnson Sweeney. The photographs in the collection document Leeds' life with partner and documentary filmmaker Wheaton Galentine, and Leeds' work as an architect and interior design professor at Pratt Institute.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 2014 by Harry Leeds' estate via Barry Skovgaard, executor.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Harold Leeds papers, 1940s-circa 2002. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Terms of 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

Harold E. Leeds (1913-2002) was an architect and professor of interior design at Pratt Institute in New York City. He designed the Paris Theater, the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, and Martha Graham's dance studio. In 1951, Leeds, along with his partner, documentary filmmaker Wheaton Galentine, purchased a house at 64 Perry Street in the West Village. His neighbors, the painter Loren MacIver and her husband, poet Lloyd Frankenberg lived at 61 Perry Street. During their extended stays in France, Leeds would look after their home.

Scope and Contents

The papers of architect Harold E. Leeds measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1940s-circa 2002. The letters found here are primarily from painter Loren MacIver writing from France, during which time Leeds looked after the home belonging to MacIver and her husband, poet Lloyd Frankenberg. While mainly logistical in nature, MacIver does describe aspects of her daily life in France, and her and Frankenberg's friendships with prominent figures including Margaret Barr, Elizabeth Bishop, Pierre Matisse, and James Johnson Sweeney. The photographs in the collection document Leeds' life with partner and documentary filmmaker Wheaton Galentine, and Leeds' work as an architect and interior design professor at Pratt Institute.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Letters, 1950s-1970 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Photographic Material, 1940s-circa 2002 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1-3)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Architects -- New York (State) -- New York
Architecture -- Study and teaching
Expatriate artists -- France
Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York
Interior decoration
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Barr, Margaret Scolari, 1901-1987
Bishop, Elizabeth, 1911-1979
Frankenberg, Lloyd, 1907-1975
Galentine, Wheaton
MacIver, Loren, 1909-

Matisse, Pierre, 1900-1989
Pratt Institute -- Faculty
Sweeney, James Johnson, 1900-

Places:

France -- description and travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, 1950s-1970

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Letters date from 1950s-1970 and are primarily from Loren Maclver to Harold Leeds, who was caretaker of her and her husband's home in the West Village during their stays in France. While mainly logistical in nature, Maclver does describe aspects of her daily life in France, and her and Frankenberg's friendships with prominent figures including Margaret Barr, Elizabeth Bishop, Pierre Matisse, and James Johnson Sweeney. Maclver typically signed the letters from herself and Frankenberg, using "L, L" or "LoLo" for Loren and Lloyd. A few other letters are found here, including one to Lloyd Frankenberg.

Box 1	Loren Maclver
Box 1, Folder 1	Letters, undated, 1950s-1970
Box 1, Folder 2	Letters, 1953-1955
Box 1, Folder 3	Letters, 1961
Box 1, Folder 4	Letters, 1962
Box 1, Folder 5	Letters, 1963
Box 1, Folder 6	Letters, 1965
Box 1, Folder 7	Letters, 1966
Box 1, Folder 8	Letters, 1967
Box 1, Folder 9	Letters, 1968
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters, 1969
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters, 1970
Box 1, Folder 12	Other Letters, circa 1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Photographic Material, 1940s-circa 2002

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material dates from 1940s-circa 2002 and includes hundreds of prints of Leeds and his partner Galentine, and about fifty negatives. Many are travel pictures from various trips they took together to Martha's Vineyard, Vermont, Sweden, London, and other destinations. Also found here are interior views of Leeds and Galentine's residences at 4 East 48th Street, 64 Perry Street, and 208 East 58th Street in Manhattan. Photographs of friends and others includes one print of Maclver and Frankenberg, several of Victoria Kent at Louise Crane's country home, and others.

Box 1, Folder 13-14 Harold Leeds and Wheaton Galentine, 1940s-circa 2002

Box 2, Folder 1 Harold Leeds at Pratt Institute, 1950s-1970s

Box 2, Folder 2 Interiors, 1940s-1980s

Box 2, Folder 3 Travel, 1945-1970s

Box 2, Folder 4 Friends and Others, 1950s-circa 2002

Box 3, Folder 1 Harold Leeds, Wheaton Galentine, and Others, 1940s-1950s
Negatives

[Return to Table of Contents](#)