



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Alfred Levitt papers

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alfred Levitt papers
Date:	1920-1984
Identifier:	AAA.levialfr
Creator:	Levitt, Alfred H. (Alfred Hofmann), 1894-2000
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet ((on 2 microfilm reels))
Language:	Approximately half of the printed material and twenty percent of the correspondence is in French.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1985 by Alfred Levitt.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 4058-4059 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Cubist painter and photographer, New York, N.Y. Began his formal art training at the Art Students League, continued at the Academie Grand Chaumiere, France, and with Hans Hofmann. Metropolitan Museum owns twenty of his paintings. Founded the School of Modern Painting of Provence in St. Remy in 1960, where he was director and instructor until 1962. Levitt also developed an interest in prehistory and eventually became an expert in the field, winning an award from the French government for his studies of Stone Age cave art. Except for a few years in France and Spain, Levitt lived all of his life in New York. Studied at the Ferrer Art School. Died May 25, 2000, at age 105.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, 1920-1984; biographical material, business records, 1951-1959, includes receipts for watercolors exhibited at New York museums and galleries, and a project proposal for a series of lectures on cave art; writings, ca. 1917-1971, includes poems by Levitt, two proposals for a Greenwich Village Cultural Center, an article for a new art magazine, and an article about Levitt by George Dorgan; scrapbooks [unbound], undated and 1943-1975; printed material, including brochures concerning Levitt's political

activities; photographs including portraits of Levitt and views of his studio, 1926, some of his paintings, 1937-1960; and the School of Modern Painting of the Provence, 1960; in which Levitt was active.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence is concentrated between 1945-1967 and includes statements of Levitt's philosophies and opinions on art and related matters; business letters, some pertaining to artists' associations on Cape Ann, Mass.; correspondence with museums; letters which reveal Levitt's efforts to gain recognition in the 1950s; also letters or notes from Marcel Duchamp, Ralph Pearson, G.L.K. Morris, George Biddle, and Ilya Bolotowsky; and letters discussing Levitt's interest in prehistoric art.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Periodicals
- Cubism
- Painting, Prehistoric

Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Biddle, George, 1885-1973
- Bolotowsky, Ilya, 1907-1981
- Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
- Lhote, André, 1885-1962
- Morris, George L. K., 1905-1975
- Pearson, Ralph M., 1883-1958
- School of Modern Painting of the Provence

Occupations:

- Historians
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

- Art Schools -- France -- Saint Remy de Provence
- Arts organizations -- Massachusetts