



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Little Gallery records,
1918-1985, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Little Gallery records
Identifier:	AAA.littgall
Date:	1918-1985
Extent:	11.5 Linear feet
Creator:	Little Gallery (Birmingham, Mich.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Little Gallery records measure 11.5 linear feet and date from 1918 to 1985. The collection documents Little Gallery's operations through artist, exhibition, and subject files, printed material, photographs, and one sound recording. The collection also includes personal and professional papers, photographs, and some printed material related to Marguerite (Peggy) and Albert deSalle.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 1985 by William E. Woolfenden as personal representative of the estate of Marguerite L. deSalle.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Little Gallery records, 1918-1985. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Established in 1950 by Marguerite (Peggy) deSalle, the Little Gallery in Birmingham, Michigan was the first gallery in the region to deal in and exhibit contemporary art. Initially deSalle primarily handled the work of local artists starting out in their careers, and the work of faculty from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. deSalle's ex-husband and close friend, artist Zoltan Sepeshy, assisted her in meeting local artists to show at the gallery. Over time, Little Gallery added the works of artists from Europe, Africa, and other parts of the United States. deSalle also established a framing gallery in the basement, and showed jewelry and pottery in addition to paintings and sculptures.

Peggy deSalle (1903-1985) was born in Hungary where she lived until her family emigrated to New York when she was six years old. As a young woman she frequented the studio of Michigan painter Paul Honore, where she met Albert deSalle and Zoltan Sepeshy. In the 1920s she worked as a photographer for William Suhr, a restorer of paintings, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. While working there, she was offered the opportunity to learn photography at various museums in Europe, particularly Germany.

In the 1940s, prior to opening the Little Gallery, deSalle worked out of her home selling art, antiques, silver, goblets, bowls, and paintings brought to the United States by German political refugees. At one point her inventory was approximately 200 works of art.

Albert deSalle served in the U.S. army and was honorably discharged in 1918. In the 1920s and 1930s, deSalle performed in the theatre and worked in a secretarial and managerial capacity for artist Paul Honore. Not long after Peggy began Little Gallery, Albert joined the gallery's staff and remained there until his death in 1964.

In 1983, Peggy donated funds for the founding of the Peggy and Albert deSalle Gallery of Photography at the Detroit Institute of Art.

Scope and Contents

The Little Gallery records measure 11.5 linear feet and date from 1918 to 1985. The collection documents Little Gallery's operations through artist, exhibition, and subject files, printed material, photographs, and one sound recording. The collection also includes personal and professional papers, photographs, and some printed material related to Marguerite (Peggy) and Albert deSalle.

Artist files consist of photographs of artwork, correspondence, price lists, shipping information, biographical summaries, and some printed material pertaining to various artists represented at the Little Gallery. Two artists particularly documented in these records are Francis De Erdely and Jean Lamouroux, who were both friends of Peggy deSalle and her husband Albert.

Exhibition files contain correspondence, shipping information, price lists, inventories, publicity material, and several pieces of posterboard signage. Little Gallery's subject files consist of correspondence, photographs, financial information, printed material, and other items that relate to advertising, other galleries and museums, contributions of artwork, collectors, and more.

Peggy and Albert deSalle's personal and professional papers include papers related to Peggy's career as an artwork photographer, writings, correspondence with artists, price lists, inventories, artist biographies, and photographs that document Peggy deSalle's transition into selling the art of European craftsmen.

Printed material documents Little Gallery exhibitions and events, as well as activities of Peggy and Albert deSalle outside the gallery, artists, and events at other galleries and organizations. Also found is a deSalle family scrapbook.

Photographs are primarily of Peggy and Albert deSalle, gatherings with friends, and professional events, including interior and exterior photos of the Little Gallery.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as six series.

- Series 1: Artist Files, 1950-1982 (Box 1-4; 4 linear feet)
- Series 2: Exhibition Files, 1956-1975 (Box 5; .4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Subject Files, 1950-1988 (Box 5-9; 4 linear feet)
- Series 4: Peggy and Albert deSalle Personal and Professional Papers, 1918-1985 (Box 9-11; 2.3 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1922-1984 (Box 11, 13; .5 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographs, 1920s-1980s (Box 11-13, .4 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women art dealers

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Scrapbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

De Erdely, Francis, 1904-1959
DeSalle, Albert
DeSalle, Peggy
Lamouroux, Jean
Sepeshy, Zoltan, 1898-1974

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- Michigan

Container Listing

Series 1: Artist Files, 1941-1982

4 Linear feet (Box 1-4)

Folders may contain photographs of artwork, correspondence, price lists, shipping information, biographical summaries, and some printed material pertaining to various artists represented at the Little Gallery. Two artists particularly documented in these records are Francis De Erdely and Jean Lamouroux, both of whom were friends of the deSalles and whose work was shown frequently at Little Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 1	Abernaty, J. J., 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 2	Acton, Hugh, 1956-1968
Box 1, Folder 3	Adler, Ruth, 1950
Box 1, Folder 4	Angulo, Antonio and Josef Drapell, 1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Auvil, Eileen, 1962
Box 1, Folder 6	A, Last Name, 1959-1973
Box 1, Folder 7	Balogh, Charles Edward, 1958
Box 1, Folder 8	Belisle, Victor, 1973-1977
Box 1, Folder 9	Bigler, Mary Jane, 1968-1977
Box 1, Folder 10	Brose, Morris, 1960-1972
Box 1, Folder 11	Bulone, Joseph, 1966-1977
Box 1, Folder 12-13	B, Last Name, 1950-1974
Box 1, Folder 14	Calfee, William H., 1950-1960
Box 1, Folder 15	Chew, Teng Beng, 1968-1973
Box 1, Folder 16	Cohn, Harold, 1977
Box 1, Folder 17	Cox, Sally, 1959-1965
Box 1, Folder 18	Culver, Charles, 1950-1969

Box 1, Folder 19	C, Last Name, 1955-1973
Box 1, Folder 20-23	De Erdely, Francis, 1950-1973
Box 1, Folder 24	Defrancesco, Joseph, 1961-1966
Box 1, Folder 25	De Holesch, Denes, 1955-1973
Box 2, Folder 1	DeLarios, Dora, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 2	DeMartelly, John, 1941-1966
Box 2, Folder 3	D, Last Name, 1952-1976
Box 2, Folder 4	Einstein, David, 1970-1974
Box 2, Folder 5	Ellis, Robert, 1951-1976
Box 2, Folder 6	Ellison, Phyllis, 1958
Box 2, Folder 7	Essex, Shirley, 1962-1966
Box 2, Folder 8	E, Last Name, 1955-1963
Box 2, Folder 9	Fisher, Wally, 1972-1973
Box 2, Folder 10	Flettrich, Leonard, 1957-1960
Box 2, Folder 11	Ford, Betty, 1950-1961
Box 2, Folder 12	Foster, John and Edith, 1950-1960
Box 2, Folder 13	Fredericks, Marshall, 1956-1977
Box 2, Folder 14	Frinta, Irena and Mojmir, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 15	F, Last Name, 1958-1962
Box 2, Folder 16	Gale, Richard, 1957-1977
Box 2, Folder 17	Gilman, Esther, 1959-1961

Box 2, Folder 18	Glassgold, Harry, 1967-1974
Box 2, Folder 19	Gonzalez, Ernesto, 1951-1955
Box 2, Folder 20	G, Last Name, 1959-1974
Box 2, Folder 21	Haas, Johanna, 1970-1977
Box 2, Folder 22	Heaton, Maurice, 1956-1958
Box 2, Folder 23	Heino, Otto and Vivika, 1958
Box 2, Folder 24	Hyde, Marjorie, 1957-1958
Box 2, Folder 25	H, Last Name, 1957-1976
Box 2, Folder 26	Ispanky, Lazlo, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 27	I, Last Name, 1960s-1973
Box 2, Folder 28	Jaenisch, Hans, 1952-1963
Box 2, Folder 29	J, Last Name, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 30	Kaner, Sam, 1955-1964
Box 2, Folder 31	Kipp, Maria, 1951-1960
Box 2, Folder 32	Kline, Svea, 1958-1969
Box 2, Folder 33-34	K, Last Name, 1955-1971
Box 2, Folder 35-36	Lamouroux, Jean, 1958-1976
Box 3, Folder 1-3	Lamouroux, Jean, 1957-1982
Box 3, Folder 4	Lemon, David, 1957-1959
Box 3, Folder 5	Lietzke, Luke and Rolland, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Lutzeier, Paul, 1950-1961
Box 3, Folder 7	L, Last Name, 1957-1971

Box 3, Folder 8	Matte, Paul, 1954-1962
Box 3, Folder 9	McChesney, Clifton, 1959-1972
Box 3, Folder 10-13	Michaels, Glenn, 1958-1978
Box 3, Folder 14	Michaels, Glenn, Photographs, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 15	Mitchell, Wallace, 1974
Box 3, Folder 16	M, Last Name, 1956-1970
Box 3, Folder 17-19	Natzler, Gertrud and Otto, 1952-1978
Box 3, Folder 20	N, Last Name, 1961-1973
Box 3, Folder 21	Ogiluis, Victor, Restoration , 1971
Box 3, Folder 22	O, Last Name, 1960-1961
Box 4, Folder 1	Pandit, Primulla, 1963
Box 4, Folder 2	Pillin, Polia, 1956-1962
Box 4, Folder 3	Pillin, William, 1950-1959
Box 4, Folder 4-5	P, Last Name, 1957-1973
Box 4, Folder 6	Rahon, Alice, 1955-1960
Box 4, Folder 7	Reid, Barney, 1957-1960
Box 4, Folder 8	R, Last Name, 1955-1969
Box 4, Folder 9	Schneider, Art, 1973-1978
Box 4, Folder 10	Schwarcz, June Morris, 1957-1960
Box 4, Folder 11	Schwartz, Leonard, 1951-1953
Box 4, Folder 12	Sepeshy, Zoltan, 1974-1982

Box 4, Folder 13	Sepeshy, Zoltan, Photographs, 1974-1982
Box 4, Folder 14	Slaymaker, Martha, 1968-1970
Box 4, Folder 15	Snow, Nicholas, 1971-1977
Box 4, Folder 16	Szilagyi, Eve, 1959-1977
Box 4, Folder 17-18	S, Last Name, 1956-1976
Box 4, Folder 19	Trevigno, Pat, 1952-1973
Box 4, Folder 20	Van Dommelen, David, 1958, 1961
Box 4, Folder 21	Van Leyden, Karin and Ernst, 1957-1972
Box 4, Folder 22	Vitale, Ben, 1973-1977
Box 4, Folder 23	Wallin, Sammie, 1951-1962
Box 4, Folder 24	Whalen, Dick, 1956-1959
Box 4, Folder 25	Winter, Edward, 1959-1961
Box 4, Folder 26	Wynsma, Kenneth, 1954-1972
Box 4, Folder 27	W, Last Name, 1953-1977
Box 4, Folder 28	Yoder, Walter, 1966-1973
Box 4, Folder 29	Various Artists, 1972-1977

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Series 2: Exhibition Files, 1956-1975

0.4 Linear feet (Box 5)

Files consist of correspondence, shipping information, price lists, inventories, some press releases and printed material, as well as several pieces of posterboard signage from exhibitions Little Gallery was involved with.

Box 5, Folder 1	Anniversary Exhibitions, 1957-1968
Box 5, Folder 2	Christmas Show, 1967-1968
Box 5, Folder 3	Contemporary Printmakers, 1960
Box 5, Folder 4	Cranbrook Alumni Show, 1968
Box 5, Folder 5	Cranbrook Show, 1974-1975
Box 5, Folder 6	<i>Fourth Contemporary Printmakers Show, 1961</i>
Box 5, Folder 7	Future Exhibitions, 1962-1964
Box 5, Folder 8	Japan Show, circa 1970s
Box 5, Folder 9	Midtown Galleries, 1964-1971
Box 5, Folder 10	New Orleans Exhibition, 1957
Box 5, Folder 11	Papers, 1966-1978
Box 5, Folder 12	Printmakers Exhibitions, 1960-1964
Box 5, Folder 13	Rentals and Loans, 1956-1960
Box 5, Folder 14	Signage, undated

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Series 3: Subject Files, 1950-1980

4 Linear feet (Boxes 5-9)

Subject files include correspondence, photographs, financial information, printed material, and other items that relate to advertising, other galleries and museums, contributions of artwork, collectors, and more. A significant portion of this series includes correspondence, receipts, contracts, and publicity material related to Peggy deSalle and the Little Gallery's contributions of artwork for various causes. Another significant grouping is correspondence and papers which are organized by year and include price lists, sales records, photographs, information on artists, shipping information, and newspaper clippings. Also found are scattered personal correspondence and greeting cards.

Box 5, Folder 15-18	Advertising, 1961-1970
Box 5, Folder 19	Archives of American Art, 1967-1970
Box 5, Folder 20	A, Miscellaneous, 1962-1978
Box 5, Folder 21-22	Bloomfield Art Association, 1958-1962
Box 5, Folder 23	B, Miscellaneous, 1961-1975
Box 5, Folder 24	Card and Pamphlet, Drafts, 1958, undated
Box 5, Folder 25	Collectors, Gattengno, 1958-1959
Box 5, Folder 26-27	Collectors, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Winston, 1958-1965
Box 5, Folder 28	Contributions of Art, 1966-1980
Box 6, Folder 1-6	Contributions of Art, 1971-1979
Box 6, Folder 7-13	Correspondence and Papers, 1950-1955
Box 7, Folder 1-6	Correspondence and Papers, 1955-1976
Box 7, Folder 7	C, Miscellaneous, 1961-1975
Box 7, Folder 8	Davies, John P., Jr., 1961
Box 7, Folder 9	Donations, 1972-1973
Box 7, Folder 10	Detroit Art Dealers, 1961-1962
Box 7, Folder 11	Detroit Art Institute, 1966

Box 7, Folder 12	D, Miscellaneous, 1961-1979
Box 7, Folder 13	Employees, Avril Vaughan, 1971-1974
Box 7, Folder 14	E-F, Miscellaneous, 1961-1977
Box 7, Folder 15	Galleries, Edition Rothe, 1965-1967
Box 7, Folder 16-18	Galleries, Ferdinand Roten Galleries, Inc., 1961-1965
Box 8, Folder 1	Galleries, Ferdinand Roten Galleries, Inc., 1961-1965
Box 8, Folder 2	Galleries, Nechemia Glezer and Company, 1960-1962
Box 8, Folder 3	Nielsen Gallery Inc., 1969
Box 8, Folder 4-6	Galleries, Salzer Galleries, 1959-1968
Box 8, Folder 7	Galleries, Correspondence, 1957-1979
Box 8, Folder 8-9	General Motors, 1957-1966
Box 8, Folder 10	G-H, Miscellaneous, 1961-1975
Box 8, Folder 11	Insurance, 1978-1979
Box 8, Folder 12-13	International, Japan, India, and Thailand, 1961-1964
Box 8, Folder 14	International, Japan, undated <i>1 Sound cassette</i>
Box 8, Folder 15	I-L, Miscellaneous, 1960-1977
Box 8, Folder 16	Library Catalog, Little Gallery, undated
Box 8, Folder 17	Mary Louise Sanders, Architectural Art Services, 1969-1970
Box 8, Folder 18	M, Miscellaneous, 1961-1971
Box 8, Folder 19	Pratt Graphic Art Center, 1957-1965
Box 8, Folder 20	Pearson, Ronald Hayes, Inc., undated

Box 8, Folder 21-22	Press Releases and Publicity, 1951-1977
Box 9, Folder 1	P, Miscellaneous, 1961-1971
Box 9, Folder 2	Renovation, Little Gallery, 1968-1969
Box 9, Folder 3	R, Miscellaneous, 1961-1973
Box 9, Folder 4	St. George Gallery Prints, 1959-1962
Box 9, Folder 5	S, Miscellaneous, 1961-1978
Box 9, Folder 6	Tribolet, Harold, R. R. Donnelly and Sons, 1963-1966
Box 9, Folder 7	T-Z, Miscellaneous, 1960-1971

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Series 4: Peggy and Albert deSalle Personal and Professional Papers, 1918, 1930s-1985

2.3 Linear feet (Boxes 9-11)

Peggy deSalle's papers include correspondence, price lists, and invoices related to her career as an artwork photographer. Also found are writings, correspondence with artists, price lists, inventories, artist biographies, and photographs that document deSalle's transition to selling the art of European craftsmen and thus her move towards establishing the Little Gallery in 1950. Later records of deSalle's include travel writings and papers, a passport, certificates of appreciation, and memorial material.

Records relating to Albert deSalle include a U.S. Army Honorable Discharge document, some correspondence, and newspaper clippings and letters concerning his death.

Box 9, Folder 8	Account Book, 1943-1949
Box 9, Folder 9	Artwork, undated
Box 9, Folder 10	Autobiographical Writing, Peggy deSalle, 1983
Box 9, Folder 11-20	Correspondence, 1931-1969
Box 10, Folder 1-11	Correspondence, 1969-1985, undated
Box 10, Folder 12-14	Correspondence, Letters of Sympathy Sent to Peggy deSalle, 1964-1965
Box 10, Folder 15	European Craftsmen, Notes and Related Materials, circa 1930s-1940s
Box 10, Folder 16	European Painters, Notes and Related Materials, circa 1949
Box 11, Folder 1	Homemade Greeting Cards, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Honorable Discharge from U.S. Army, Albert deSalle, 1918
Box 11, Folder 3	Institute of the Arts, Detroit, Tribute Certificate and Membership card, 1983
Box 11, Folder 4	Italian Renaissance Painters, Images and Notes, 1930s-1940s
Box 11, Folder 5	Introduction Speech for the Dorothy Liberman Weisman Award, 1982
Box 11, Folder 6	Lectures on Art Appreciation, 1932-1933
Box 11, Folder 7	"Lisbon," Poem for Peggy deSalle, circa 1968
Box 11, Folder 8	Memorial Service Guest Book, Albert deSalle; Clippings, 1965

Box 11, Folder 9	Memorials, Friends, 1970-1983
Box 11, Folder 10	Notes and Writings, undated
Box 11, Folder 11	Papers, Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
Box 11, Folder 12	Passport, Marguerite L. deSalle, circa 1970
Box 11, Folder 13	Travel, 1966-1967
Box 11, Folder 14	Travel Diary, Paris, England, Budapest, and Vienna, undated
Box 11, Folder 15	"Understanding Through Conversation", undated

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1922-1984

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 11, 13)

Found here are Little Gallery announcements for exhibitions and other events; newspaper clippings and articles concerning the Little Gallery, Peggy and Albert deSalle, the deSalle Gallery of Photography at the Detroit Institute of Art, artists, and other art-related topics. Also found here are bulletins, newsletters, exhibition ephemera from other museums and galleries, three scrapbooks, and an edition of *Time in the Wastebasket: Poems, Collages, Parables, and Dreams* by Paul Wescher. In addition to clippings, photographs, and other printed ephemera in the deSalle family scrapbook, there is a sketch by Zoltan Sepeshy.

Box 11, Folder 16	Announcements, Little Gallery, 1950s-1970s
Box 11, Folder 17	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Artists and Art Subjects, 1940s-1970s
Box 11, Folder 18-23	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Little Gallery, 1950-1977
Box 11, Folder 24	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Peggy deSalle and Little Gallery, 1970s-1980s
Box 11, Folder 25	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Albert and Peggy deSalle Gallery of Photography, 1983-1984
Box 11, Folder 26	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Miscellaneous, 1960s-1970s
Box 11, Folder 27	Bulletins and Newsletters, 1928-1981
Box 11, Folder 28-29	Exhibition Material, Other Galleries and Museums, 1950s-1960s
Box 11, Folder 30	<i>Time in the Wastebasket: Poems, Collages, Parables, and Dreams</i> , Paul Wescher, 1975
Box 13, Folder 1	Scrapbook, Albert and Peggy deSalle, 1922-1939
Box 13, Folder 2	Scrapbook, Art, Mexico, Politics, 1934-1937
Box 13, Folder 3	Scrapbook, Little Gallery, 1950-1953

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Series 6: Photographs, 1920s-1980s

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 11-13)

The bulk of this series is comprised of photographs of Peggy and Albert deSalle. Images of Peggy deSalle include snapshots and portraits of her from the 1930s to 1980s. Photographs of Albert deSalle include portraits and snapshots of him dating from his service in the first World War until his death in 1964, including snapshots taken of him acting onstage in the 1920s. Other images of the deSalles depict them with friends and family, at social gatherings, and travelling. Also found in this series are some photographs of the Little Gallery's exterior and interior, photos of artwork, exhibitions, and events, and two photographs of Willard Ayer Nash painting in his Santa Fe studio.

Box 11, Folder 31	Artwork, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 11, Folder 32	Exhibition, 1983
Box 11, Folder 33	Little Gallery Opening and Displays, circa 1950s
Box 12, Folder 1	Peggy deSalle Outside of Little Gallery, undated
Box 12, Folder 2	Albert deSalle, 1920s-1950s
Box 13, Folder 4	Albert deSalle, 1930s-1950s
Box 12, Folder 3	Peggy deSalle, 1930s-1980s
Box 12, Folder 4	The deSalles, Family, and Friends, 1930s-1980s
Box 12, Folder 5	deSalle's Housewarming, Photo Album, 1942
Box 12, Folder 6	Homes and Residences, 1961-1964
Box 12, Folder 7	Dinners and Other Events, 1950s-1980s
Box 12, Folder 8	Willard Ayer Nash in Santa Fe Studio, 1923
Box 13, Folder 5	Paul Wescher, circa 1950s-1960s

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