



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Joan Ludman papers
relating to Fairfield Porter, circa 1910-2003,
bulk 1976-2001, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joan Ludman papers relating to Fairfield Porter
Date:	circa 1910-2003 (bulk 1976-2001)
Identifier:	AAA.ludmjoan
Creator:	Ludman, Joan
Extent:	4.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Joan Ludman papers relating to Fairfield Porter measure 4.2 linear feet and are dated circa 1910-2003, bulk 1976-2001. The papers primarily document her research for <i>Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints</i> (1981) and <i>Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels</i> (2001). There are records concerning "Prints by Fairfield Porter from the Lauris and Daniel J. Mason Collection," a traveling exhibition organized by Ludman. Also found are Ludman's records concerning her authentications of Porter's artwork, and general printed material about Porter. Photographs are of Porter and his work. A 2015 addition includes provenance forms sent to Ludman from artwork owners.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Joan Ludman papers relating to Fairfield Porter were donated to the Archives of American Art by Joan Ludman in 2003 and 2004. Ludman donated additional 0.8 linear feet of papers in 2015.

Related Material

Among the holdings of the Archives of American Art are the Fairfield Porter papers, 1888-2001, and an oral history interview with Fairfield Porter conducted by Paul Cummings in 1968.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Catherine S. Gaines in 2010.

Preferred Citation

Joan Ludman papers relating to Fairfield Porter, circa 1910-2003, bulk 1976-2001. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical Note

Joan Ludman, an art historian with expertise in prints, developed a deep interest in the work of Fairfield Porter while living in Westbury, Long Island. She compiled and published a catalogue raisonné of Porter's prints in 1981, and another of his paintings, watercolors, and pastels in 2001. Now retired, Mrs. Ludman lives in Florida.

By the early 1970s, Joan Ludman had amassed a sizeable amount of information about Fairfield Porter and considered writing a biography. Instead, with the help of Anne Porter, the artist's widow, she began researching Porter's prints. The result was *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints*. It was published by Highland House Publishers, Inc., a company established by Mrs. Ludman in order to assure her own standards and control the book's quality and cost.

At the same time she was compiling the catalogue raisonné of Porter's prints, Ludman was collaborating with Lauris Mason on other projects - a catalogue raisonné of George Bellow's lithographs, an anthology of essays, and five selected bibliographies about prints and printmaking. She also organized "Prints from Fairfield Porter from the Lauris and Daniel J. Mason Collection," an exhibition that traveled to several venues in 1982 and 1983.

The Estate of Fairfield Porter donated a substantial number of paintings to the Parrish Art Museum in 1979. The museum agreed to publish a catalogue raisonné, and arrangements were formalized the following year. Twice during the early 1980s, art historians who committed to writing the monograph lost interest. The project languished due to administrative problems and the discouragingly high cost of publishing such a volume. By 1988, it was apparent that the museum could not comply with the agreement. Knowing Joan Ludman's work on the catalogue raisonné of Porter's prints, Mrs. Porter approached her about the catalogue raisonné of his paintings. The highly regarded *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels* was published by Hudson Hills Press, Inc.

Painter Fairfield Porter (1907-1975) was known for portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings. Also a critic and writer, Porter was an editorial associate with *Art News* in the 1950's, wrote for *The Nation*, published poetry, and a monograph on Thomas Eakins.

Scope and Content Note

The Joan Ludman papers relating to Fairfield Porter measure 4.2 linear feet and are dated circa 1910-2003, bulk 1976-2001. The papers primarily document her research for *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints* (1981) and *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels* (2001). There are records concerning "Prints by Fairfield Porter from the Lauris and Daniel J. Mason Collection," a traveling exhibition organized by Ludman. Also found are Ludman's records concerning her authentications of Porter's artwork, and general printed material about Porter. Photographs are of Porter and his work. A 2015 addition includes provenance forms sent to Ludman from artwork owners.

The compilation of *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints* and its publication are documented by a variety of records. Research correspondence includes photocopies of Porter's letters from the 1930s to John Wheelwright about linoleum cuts he made for the Socialist publication *Poems for a Dime*. Letters

from Anne Porter concerning the catalogue raisonné are among the miscellaneous correspondence. Also found is a "Log of the Work in Progress on Research and Interviews..." kept by Ludman, along with notes and transcripts of interviews conducted during the course of her research. Printed material concerns Porter's prints, and photographs include those reproduced in the catalogue raisonné.

Ludman's work on *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels* is documented by correspondence, a "master index," writings, printed material and photographs. Among the correspondence are questionnaires completed by owners of Porter paintings. Correspondence with Anne Porter includes typed excerpts from letters, 1922-1938, that mention her husband's painting activities. A "master index" summarizing Ludman's research is found among the writings. Printed material mentions or reproduces paintings by Fairfield Porter. Photographs include the images reproduced in the book; there are also snapshots of some early paintings, among them unidentified and unrecorded works.

Exhibition records document "Prints by Fairfield Porter from the Lauris and Daniel J. Mason Collection," a show organized by Joan Ludman that traveled in 1982 and 1983 under the auspices of the Gallery Association of New York State. Printed material provides general background information about Porter and his work. Also found are an article and book review by Fairfield Porter, along with printed material concerning members of his family and a map of Great Spruce Head Island, Maine.

Authentication records consist of letters conveying Mrs. Ludman's opinions about works purported to be by Porter. The majority of photographs are of Fairfield Porter. Also included are Manhattan street scenes photographed by Porter, and views of Joan and Harold Ludman's 1976 visit with Mrs. Porter at the home and studio.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints*, 1936-2003 (Box 1; 0.4 linear ft.)
- Series 2: *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels*, 1933-2003 (Boxes 1-3; 2.6 linear ft.)
- Series 3: Exhibition Records, 1982-1983 (Box 4; 4 folders)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1966-2000 (Box 4; 0.2 linear ft.)
- Series 5: Authentications, 1991-2001 (Box 4; 2 folders)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1910-1976 (Box 4; 0.1 linear ft.)
- Series 7: Addition to the Joan Ludman Papers Relating to Fairfield Porter, circa 1970s-2000s (Boxes 5-6, 0.8 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art patrons
Prints -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs
Transcripts

Names:

Gallery Association of New York State
Poor, Anne, 1911-2011
Porter, Fairfield
Wheelwright, John, 1897-1940

Container Listing

Series 1: *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints*, 1936-2003

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters. Research correspondence concerns provenance and exhibition history of Porter prints; also found is information received after the publication deadline. Material from the 1930s consists of photocopies of Porter's letters to John Wheelwright about linoleum cuts he made for the Socialist publication *Poems for a Dime*. Miscellaneous correspondence includes letters from Anne Porter concerning the catalogue raisonné, publication permissions and comments about the catalogue raisonné.

Among the writings are Ludman's "Log of the Work in Progress on Research and Interviews....," interview transcripts, and notes.

Printed material used for research mentions or reproduces Porter's prints. Also found is similar material post-dating publication of the book, along with publicity for the catalogue raisonné and reviews.

The black and white zinc plate lithograph is for *Scorpion, Eagle and Dove, A Love Poem* by Ted Berrigan (illustrated and lettered by Porter), circa 1970. Book jackets featuring Porter's work are for volumes of poetry by John Koethe and James Schulyer, and for Ludman's catalogue raisonné. Also found are a small number of negatives and transparencies.

Arrangement: Research correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Photographs that were reproduced in the catalogue raisonné are arranged by medium.

Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1	Research, 1930s, 1977-1984
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Box 1, Folder 2	Miscellaneous, 1978-1982
-----------------	--------------------------

Writings

Box 1, Folder 3	"Appreciations," 1979 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooke Alexander • Fred Dietzel (from an interview with Jane Freilicher) • David Shapiro
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Box 1, Folder 4	Notes, undated
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Box 1, Folder 5	Interview Transcripts and Notes, 1978-1979 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chip Elwell • Jane Freilicher • Paul Markiewicz • Jennifer Melby • Jules Sherman
-----------------	--

Box 1, Folder 6	"Log of the Work in Progress on Research and Interviews for Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Prints," 1976-1981 1 Volume
-----------------	--

Printed Material

Box 1, Folder 7	About Porter's Prints (post-dating publication of the catalogue raisonné), 1982-2003, undated
-----------------	---

Box 1, Folder 8	Publicity (advertisements, book reviews, press releases, etc.), 1980-1982, undated
-----------------	--

Research Materials

Box 1, Folder 9	Articles, Catalogs, Miscellaneous Items, 1971-1980, undated
-----------------	---

Box 1, Folder 10	Poems for a Dime, numbers 4 and 6, 1936-1937
------------------	--

Photographs - Art Work

Box 1, Folder 11	Linoleum Cuts (1936-1940), undated
------------------	------------------------------------

Lithographs

Box 1, Folder 12	Black and White Offset (circa 1960-1969), undated
------------------	---

Box 1, Folder 13	Black and White Zinc Plate (circa 1970), undated
------------------	--

Box 1, Folder 14	Color (1971-1975), undated Notes: color photographs
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Box 1, Folder 15	Color (1971-1975), undated Notes: black and white photographs
------------------	--

Box 1, Folder 16	Silkscreen (1967), 1978, undated
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Photographs - Printed Material (reproducing work by Porter)

Box 1, Folder 17	Book Jackets, undated
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Box 1, Folder 18	Posters, undated
------------------	------------------

Negatives - Art Work

Box 1, Folder 19	Illustration (1927), undated
------------------	------------------------------

Box 1, Folder 20	Linoleum Cuts (1936-1937), undated
------------------	------------------------------------

Transparencies - Art Work

Box 1, Folder 21	Lithographs, Color (1969-1975), undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Silkscreen (executed 1967), undated
Transparencies - Printed Material (reproducing work by Porter)	
Box 1, Folder 23	Book Jackets, undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Posters, undated

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Series 2: *Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels, 1933-2003*

2.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters. Research correspondence includes many completed questionnaires that Ludman distributed to owners of Porter's work. Porter's letters to Howard Griffin, written in the 1970s, are photocopies. Correspondence with Anne Porter includes copies of letters from galleries; typed excerpts from letters, 1933-1938, mentioning Fairfield Porter's painting activities; and some social and personal letters to Joan and Harold Ludman. The Edith Schloss file includes Schloss's correspondence with Ludman and photocopies of letters from Fairfield Porter. Miscellaneous correspondence and related notes include information obtained too late to incorporate into the catalogue raisonné.

The "master index" summarizes Ludman's research on index cards with some photographs, photocopies, and letters interfiled. Writings consist of a transcript of a conversation with Anne Porter, various notes, and the manuscript of Ludman's catalogue of the Parrish Museum's Fairfield Porter collection.

Printed material - mostly articles, exhibition announcements, catalogs - mention or reproduce paintings by Fairfield Porter. Also found is similar material post-dating publication of the catalogue raisonné, along with publicity and reviews of the catalogue raisonné. Photographs are of paintings and watercolors by Fairfield Porter and include those published in the catalogue raisonné as well as snapshots of early paintings, circa 1930s-1940s.

Arrangement: Research correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The "master index" is arranged alphabetically by painting title. Photographs that were published in the catalogue raisonné are arranged numerically, and correspond to numbers used in the publication.

Correspondence - Research

Box 1, Folder 25

Alpha Gallery - Sarah Lane Crabtree, 1990-2001

Notes:

- :
- Alpha Gallery
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Ashbery, John (per assistant Tom Breidenbach)
- Bennish, Mr. and Mrs. Robert
- Elaine Benson Gallery
- Berglund, Nils A.
- Bess, James A.
- Birch, Barbara (sister of Anne Porter)
- Bright, Ned
- Bullowa, Arthur M., Estate of (see: box 1, folder 33)
- Burckhardt, Edith Schloss (see: box 1, folder 34)
- Burckhardt, Jacob (see: box 1, folder 34)
- Campbell, Charles
- Channing, Mary
- Christie's
- Crabtree, Sarah Lane

Box 1, Folder 26

Robert Dash - Julia Gruen, 1982-2001, undated

Notes:

- :
- Dash, Robert
- Eaton, Maggie and Jim
- Fiduciary Trust Company

- Forgey, Benjamin
- Fuller, Anina Porter (niece of Fairfield Porter)
- Giardelli, Arthur
- Grand, Stanley I.
- Grooms, Red
- Gruen, Julia

Box 1, Folder 27

Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc. - Warren S. Josephy, 1982-1995

Notes:

- :
- Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc.
- Hirschl and Adler Gallery
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- Hodges, Theodore V.
- Ichida, Karl K.
- Jones, E. Powis
- Jones, Peter C.
- Josephy, Warren S.

Box 1, Folder 28

Sam Klein - Frank Louis Picarello, Jr., 1974-2000

Notes:

- :
- Klein, Sam
- Kligman, Ruth
- M. Knoedler and Co., Inc.
- Lamm, Ruth and Michael
- Ludman, Harold and Joan
- McNallay, Terrence
- Malone, Joan S.
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Middlebury College, Johnson Gallery
- Muirhead, Helen Drake
- Murphy, Keelin
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Tibor de Nagy Gallery
- National Portrait Gallery (Washington, DC)
- New York University
- Park, Darragh
- Pease, Roland
- Picarello, Frank Louis, Jr.

Box 1, Folder 29-31

Porter, Anne, 1983-2002, 1933-1938, undated
3 Folders

Box 1, Folder 32

Porter, Fairfield, 1960-1974, undated

Box 1, Folder 33

David A. Praeger - Mrs. Harold Robbins, 1989-2001

Notes:

- :
- Praeger, David A (re: Estate of Arthur M. Bullowa)
- Robbins, Mrs. Harold

Box 1, Folder 34

Edith Schloss, 1972-2001

Box 1, Folder 35

David Shapiro - Sumner Winebaum, 1978-2000

- Notes: :
- Shapiro, David
 - Sotheby's
 - Spring, Justin
 - Stevenson, Adlai
 - Straus, Margaret F. (niece of Fairfield Porter)
 - Sheldon Swope Art Museum
 - Tatistcheff, Peter A.
 - Updike, John
 - Wallace, Neil W.
 - Welliver, Neil
 - Winebaum, Sumner

Correspondence - Essay Authors

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 36 | William C. Agee, circa 2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Rackstraw Downes, 1992-1999 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Correspondence - Miscellaneous (with related notes), 2000-2003
Notes: : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birch, Barbara• Burckhardt, Jacob• Freeman, Nigel• Kresge Art Museum• Museum of Fine Arts, Houston• Sotheby's• Treadway, Beth• Christina Zuccari Fine Art |

Master Index

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Adlai Stevenson - Bear Island with Spruces, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Bedroom - Cumulus, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | Daisies - Evening Shore, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | Fairfield's Aunt Margaret Furness - Grey Still Life, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | The Harbor - Hymn to Life, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Ice Storm - July Interior, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Katie - Lizzie with Wild Roses, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Lobster Boat - Melting Snow, circa 1988-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Michael W. Straus - Overmantle, circa 1988-2000 |

Box 2, Folder 6	Painting Materials - Purple Mountain Landscape, circa 1988-2000
Box 2, Folder 7	Queen Anne's Lace, Evening - September Cloud, circa 1988-2000
Box 2, Folder 8	The Shore - Studio Interior, circa 1988-2000
Box 2, Folder 9	Study for Anne Reading to Laurance - Two Trees, circa 1988-2000
Box 2, Folder 10	Under the Elms - Untitled, circa 1988-2000
Box 2, Folder 11	Vase of Flowers - Zinnias and Milk Cartons, circa 1988-2000
Writings	
Box 2, Folder 12-13	Manuscript, "Catalogue of the Fairfield Porter Collection at the Parrish Art Museum," Parts 1 and 2, compiled by Joan Ludman, circa 1991 2 Folders
Box 2, Folder 14	Notes, 1963-1997, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Notes, "Prescott D. Schutz material," circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 16	Transcript of Conversation with Anne Porter, 1988
Printed Material	
Box 2, Folder 17-18	About Porter's Paintings (post-dating publication of the catalogue raisonné), 2002-2003 2 Folders
Box 2, Folder 19	Publicity, 1993-2002, undated
Box 3, Folder 1-31	Research Materials, 1955-2002, undated 31 Folders
Images Reproduced in <i>Fairfield Porter: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Watercolors, and Pastels</i>	
Box 3, Folder 32-35	Photographs and Printed Reproductions, undated 4 Folders
Box 3, Folder 36	Slides, undated
Box 3, Folder 37	Transparencies, undated
Photographs of Art Work by Fairfield Porter	
Box 3, Folder 38	Mural, Turn Imperialist War into Civil War, circa 1934-1935

Box 3, Folder 39	Paintings, circa 1930s-1940s Notes: loose pages from photograph album
Box 3, Folder 40	Paintings, undated
Box 3, Folder 41	Watercolors, undated
Box 3, Folder 42	Watercolors - Porter exhibition installation, Brooke Alexander Gallery (1975 December-1976 January), circa 1975
Box 3, Folder 43	Slides - Paintings, undated
Box 3, Folder 44	Transparencies - Paintings, undated

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Series 3: Exhibition Records, 1982-1983

4 Folders (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: "Prints by Fairfield Porter from the Lauris and Daniel J. Mason Collection," an exhibition organized by Joan Ludman, traveled under the auspices of the Gallery Association of New York State. Among its venues were: Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York (1982); Federal Reserve Bank of New York (1982); State University of New York, Oneonta (1982); Brookhaven National Laboratories, Upton, New York (1983); Niagara Community College, Sanborn, New York (1983); Hempstead Public Library, Hempstead, New York (1983); and State University of New York, Cobleskill (1983).

Correspondence about the exhibition consists mainly of incoming letters from the Gallery Association of New York State. Ludman's gallery talk is titled "The Color Lithographs of Fairfield Porter." Photographs are of the exhibition opening and installation at the Parrish Art Museum in 1982.

Box 4, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1982-1983
Box 4, Folder 2	Text of Gallery Talk by Ludman, Parrish Art Museum, 1982
Box 4, Folder 3	Printed Material, 1982-1983
Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs, 1982

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1966-2000

0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of exhibition catalogs and announcements, and articles about Fairfield Porter, his work, and family; many items contain reproductions of his artwork. Also found are articles about both prints and paintings with publication dates that suggest they may have provided information for both of Ludman's catalogue raisonné projects. Printed material by Porter consists of an article and book review and a volume of Porter's criticism selected and edited by Rackstraw Downes.

Arrangement: Additional printed material is found in series 1-3.

About/Mentioning Fairfield Porter

Box 4, Folder 5	Biographical Notes; Obituary, 1966-1991, undated
Box 4, Folder 6-10	Articles, etc., 1971-2003, undated 5 Folders
Box 4, Folder 11	Reviews of Books about Porter, 1983-2000

About/Mentioning Porter Family

Box 4, Folder 12	Fuller, Anina Porter (niece), 1997
Box 4, Folder 13	Porter, Anne (wife), 1994, undated
Box 4, Folder 14	Porter, Eliot (brother), 1979-1990, undated

By Fairfield Porter

Box 4, Folder 15	Article and Book Review, 1966, undated
Box 4, Folder 16	Fairfield Porter: Art in Its Own Terms - Selected Criticism, 1935-75, edited by Rackstraw Downes, 1978-1993, (reviews and publicity), undated
Box 4, Folder 17	Map of Great Spruce Head Island, Maine, undated

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Series 5: Authentications, 1991-2001

2 Folders (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Authentications include letters and pictures from owners of works purported to be by Fairfield Porter, along with Mrs. Ludman's opinions (some with input from Mrs. Porter).

Authentication of Art Work	
Box 4, Folder 18	By Fairfield Porter, 2001
Box 4, Folder 19	Not by Fairfield Porter, 1999-2002, undated

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Series 6: Photographs, circa 1910-1976

0.1 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: The photograph of Porter in his studio by John MacWhinnie was the basis for MacWhinnie's *Portrait of Fairfield Porter*.

Arrangement: Additional scattered photographs are found in series 1-3 and 5.

Fairfield Porter	
Box 4, Folder 20	With Edward (brother), circa 1910
Box 4, Folder 21	At Shorewood Atelier, Inc., circa 1971
Box 4, Folder 22	In his Studio (John MacWhinnie, photographer), undated
Box 4, Folder 23	Portrait of Fairfield Porter by John MacWhinnie, undated
Box 4, Folder 24	Joan and Harold Ludman visit the Porter Home and Studio, 1976
Miscellaneous Subjects (Fairfield Porter, photographer)	
Box 4, Folder 25	Dog, undated
Box 4, Folder 26	Manhattan Street Scenes, circa 1960s
Negatives	
Box 4, Folder 27	Joan and Harold Ludman visit the Porter Home and Studio, 1976
Box 4, Folder 28	Fairfield Porter's Signature, undated

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Series 7: Addition to the Joan Ludman Papers Relating to Fairfield Porter, circa 1970s-2000s

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6)

Scope and Contents: An unprocessed addition of 0.8 linear feet donated in 2015 includes returned form letters, initially sent by Ludman to owners of Fairfield Porter's works, regarding provenance and identifying information for works of art. The returned forms were used by Ludman in her provenance research on Porter.

Box 5 Provenance Forms from Owners, Unsorted, circa 1970s-2000s

Box 6 Provenance Forms from Owners, Unsorted, circa 1970s-2000s

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