



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Clara MacGowan Papers, 1929-1977, 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:	Clara MacGowan papers
Date:	1929-1977
Identifier:	AAA.macgclar
Creator:	MacGowan, Clara, 1895-1983
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Clara MacGowan papers were donated in 1996 by the Illinois Historical Art Project through Joel Dryer.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Clara MacGowan papers, 1929-1977. 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

Clara MacGowan (1895-1983) was a painter, printmaker, and educator in Chicago, Illinois. MacGowan was a professor of art at Northwestern University from 1927-1947, and a frequent lecturer at local women's clubs. Her work was exhibited regularly at the Arts Club of Chicago and the Chicago Society of Artists.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter and printmaker Clara MacGowan measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1929 to 1977. Found are scattered biographical materials, a mixed-media scrapbook, and photographs of MacGowan, Macgowan with others, and her works of art. Also included is an album of photographs of seventy-four paintings by MacGowan compiled in 1977 to facilitate the distribution of her estate.

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:

- Scrapbooks
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Occupations:

- Educators -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Printmakers -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Clara MacGowan Papers, 1929-1977

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include resumes and one holiday letter written by MacGowan to friends and family. Photographs depict MacGowan, MacGowan with friends, and a Canadian Pacific Railway train. Also found is an album of photos of works of art. A mixed-media scrapbook contains letters, newspaper clippings, and other printed material documenting MacGowan's work.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1972-1973
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs, of MacGowan and Others, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Photographs, Album of Works of Art, 1977
Box 1, Folder 5	Scrapbook, Loose Material, 1929-1964
Box 1, Folder 6	Scrapbook, 1929-1964

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