



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Margaret Brown Gallery Records, 1921-1958, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Margaret Brown Gallery records
Date:	1921-1958
Identifier:	AAA.margbrow
Creator:	Margaret Brown Gallery (Boston, Mass.)
Extent:	9.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of Boston art gallery and framing shop Margaret Brown Gallery measure 9.3 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1958. The collection comprises correspondence with artists, customers, museums and galleries, and Brown's personal correspondence with her son Rodney and friends; artist files containing correspondence, and to a lesser extent, printed materials, price lists, and letters with potential buyers; gallery records containing administrative and financial files; printed materials that include programs for events in which the gallery participated; and photographic materials including photos of works of art and a few artists, and Brown's personal photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Margaret Brown Gallery records were donated in 1972 by Harold W. Palmer, a shop assistant at the gallery.

Available Formats

Photographs of artwork are available on 35mm microfilm reels 672-673. The remainder of the collection, except for material related to the framing shop, are on 35mm microfilm reels 653-663. All reels are available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Margaret Brown Gallery records, 1921-1958. 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

The Margaret Brown Gallery (est. 1945) was an art gallery and frame shop in Boston, M.A.

Margaret Brown was an assistant at the Grace Horne Gallery before opening her own gallery in 1945 on Newbury Street in Boston. The gallery exhibited prominent New England artists, as well as some New York and European artists. Channing Hare, Hopkins Hensel, Aimee Lamb, and Ethel Edwards were among some of the artists who maintained strong relationships with the gallery. Brown was involved in arranging art exhibitions for Boston arts festivals, and became an esteemed member of Boston's art community despite her short career.

Brown died of a brain tumor in the summer of 1957 at age 49.

Scope and Contents

The records of Boston art gallery and framing shop Margaret Brown Gallery measure 9.3 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1958. The collection comprises correspondence with artists, customers, museums and galleries, and Brown's personal correspondence with her son Rodney and friends; artist files containing correspondence, and to a lesser extent, printed materials, price lists, and letters with potential buyers; gallery records containing administrative and financial files; printed materials that include programs for events in which the gallery participated; and photographic materials including photos of works of art and a few artists, and Brown's personal photographs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-1958 (2.6 linear feet; boxes 1-3, OV 12)
 - Series 2: Artist's Files, 1946-1958 (2 linear feet; boxes 3-5)
 - Series 3: Gallery Records, 1934-1958 (3.7 linear feet; boxes 5-7, 9-11)
 - Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1952-1957 (0.3 linear feet; box 8)
 - Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1921-circa 1950 (0.7 linear feet; box 8)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Brown, Margaret E., d. 1957
Cox, Gardner, 1906-1988
Edwards, Ethel, 1914-1999

Kepes, Gyorgy, 1906-2001
Lamb, Aimée, 1893-1989

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- Massachusetts -- Boston

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-1958

2.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, OV 12)

Scope and Contents: Professional correspondence is with artists and customers, and museums, galleries, and institutions discussing transfers of artwork, pricing and payments, framing orders, exhibitions, and other business. Also included is general business correspondence with publications, arts organizations, and vendors regarding services rendered, advertising, and other administrative activities.

The file for store assistant Harold Palmer includes correspondence relating to the closing of the gallery due to Margaret Brown's illness. Personal correspondence is with friends and Brown's son, Rodney Brown.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artists, A, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 2	Artists, B, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 3	Artists, C, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Artists, D-E, 1949-1956
Box 1, Folder 5	Artists, F, 1948-1955
Box 1, Folder 6	Artists, G, 1947-1957
Box 1, Folder 7	Artists, Naum Gabo, 1955-1957
Box 1, Folder 8	Artists, H-I, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Artists, J-L, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 11	Artists, M-O, 1948-1957
Box 1, Folder 12	Artists, P-Q, 1948-1957
Box 1, Folder 13	Artists, R, 1948-1957
Box 1, Folder 14	Artists, David Smith, 1951-1953
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Artists, S-U, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 17	Artists, V-W, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 18	Artists, X-Z, 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 19	Customers, A, 1952-1957

Box 1, Folder 20	Customers, B, 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 21	Customers, C, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 22	Customers, D, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 23	Customers, E-F, 1949-1956
Box 1, Folder 24	Customers, G, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 25	Customers, H-J, 1948-1956
Box 1, Folder 26	Customers, K-L, 1951-1958
Box 1, Folder 27	Customers, M-N, 1949-1957
Box 1, Folder 28	Customers, O, 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 1	Customers, O, 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 2	Customers, P-R, 1948-1957
Box 2, Folder 3	Customers, S, 1948-1957
Box 2, Folder 4	Customers, T-V, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 5	Customers, W-Z, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 6	General Business, A, 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 7	General Business, B-D, 1948-1957
Box 2, Folder 8	General Business, E-K, 1942-1957
Box 2, Folder 9	General Business, Re: Gallery Finances, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 10	General Business, L-M, 1949-1957
Box 2, Folder 11	General Business, N-Q , 1948-1957
Box 2, Folder 12	General Business, P-S , 1949-1957
Box 2, Folder 13	General Business, T-Z , 1948-1957
Box 2, Folder 14	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - A, 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 15	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - B, 1950-1957

Box 2, Folder 16-17	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - Boston Arts Festival, 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 18	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - C, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 19	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - D, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 20	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - E-G, 1950-1957
Box 2, Folder 21	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - H-J, 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 1	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - H-J, 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 2	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - K-L, 1952-1957
Box 3, Folder 3-4	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - M, 1949-1957
Box 3, Folder 5	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - N-P, 1949-1957
Box 3, Folder 6	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - Q-R, 1949-1957
Box 3, Folder 7	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - S, 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 8	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - T-V, 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 9-10	Museums, Galleries, and Institutions - W-Z, 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 11	Palmer, Harold W. (Shop Assistant at the Gallery), 1953-1958
Box 3, Folder 12	Personal, Postcards, circa 1953-1957
Box 3, Folder 13-14	Personal, Rodney Brown (Son), 1949-1955
Box 3, Folder 15	Personal, General, circa 1953
Oversize OV 12	Personal, Illustrated Letter from Sender Identified as "Venus", circa 1951

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Series 2: Artist's Files, 1946-1958

2 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

Scope and Contents: The bulk of the correspondence in this series discusses artworks sent for loan or sale, and returns of artwork to artists. Files may also include printed materials, price and consignment lists, and correspondence with potential buyers.

Box 3, Folder 16	Barrett, Thomas, 1951-1954
Box 3, Folder 17	Barss, William (Ville), 1948-1952
Box 3, Folder 18	Bartlett, Clay, 1948-1954
Box 3, Folder 19	Bernhardt, John, 1953-1957
Box 3, Folder 20	Berry, Donald, 1953-1957
Box 3, Folder 21	Cadmus, Paul, 1949-1954
Box 3, Folder 22	Caesar, Doris, circa 1956
Box 3, Folder 23	Calder, Alexander, 1949-1957
Box 3, Folder 24-25	Chen, Chi Kwan, 1953-1957
Box 3, Folder 26	Callery, Mary, 1951
Box 3, Folder 27	Congdon, William, 1949-1956
Box 3, Folder 28	Cook, Robert, 1948-1956
Box 3, Folder 29	Corbridge, Edgar, 1947-1951
Box 3, Folder 30	Cox, Gardner, 1948-1957
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Cox, Gardner, 1948-1957
Box 4, Folder 3	Crite, Allan, 1946-1957
Box 4, Folder 4	Cummings, Willard, circa 1952
Box 4, Folder 5	Dali, Salvador, 1950-1952
Box 4, Folder 6	Dolejska, Frank, 1950-1955
Box 4, Folder 7	Draper, William, 1948-1956
Box 4, Folder 8	Edwards, Ethel, 1952-1957

Box 4, Folder 9	Etnier, Stephen, circa 1953
Box 4, Folder 10	Feldman, Walter, circa 1953
Box 4, Folder 11	Fink, Herbert, 1954-1957
Box 4, Folder 12	Fitz-Gerald, Clark, 1954-1957
Box 4, Folder 13	Folsom, Janet, circa 1950-1957
Box 4, Folder 14	Fontaine, Paul, 1949-1957
Box 4, Folder 15-17	Fransioli, Thomas, 1948-1957
Box 4, Folder 18	Ghikas, Panos, 1948-1955
Box 4, Folder 19	Gibbs, Howard, 1948-1958
Box 4, Folder 20	Gibran, Kahlil, 1949-1953
Box 4, Folder 21	Goodall, Robert, 1952-1957
Box 4, Folder 22	Graves, Morris, 1949-1956
Box 4, Folder 23	Hare, Channing, 1948-1957
Box 4, Folder 24	Harriman, Mary, 1956
Box 4, Folder 25	Healy, Arthur K.D., 1948-1951
Box 4, Folder 26	Hensel, Hopkins, 1947-1957
Box 4, Folder 27	Hooper, Katrine Amory, 1946-1950
Box 4, Folder 28	Hopkinson, Charles, 1948-1954
Box 4, Folder 29	James, Michael, 1950-1956
Box 4, Folder 30	Kamys, Walter, 1949-1954
Box 4, Folder 31	Kepes, György, 1951-1957
Box 4, Folder 32	Kline, Franz, 1955-1957
Box 4, Folder 33	Kupferman, Lawrence, 1950
Box 4, Folder 34	Lachaise, Gaston, 1956-1957

Box 4, Folder 35	Lamb, Aimee, 1949-1955
Box 4, Folder 36	Levinson, Lincoln, 1949-1950
Box 4, Folder 37	Lippold, Richard, 1950-1953
Box 4, Folder 38	Lutz, Herbert, 1949-1957
Box 5, Folder 1	MacIver, Lauren, 1949-1951
Box 5, Folder 2	Metcalf, Conger, 1952-1957
Box 5, Folder 3	Morgan, Maud, 1949-1957
Box 5, Folder 4	Morgan, Patrick, 1951-1957
Box 5, Folder 5	Morin, Thomas, 1954-1957
Box 5, Folder 6	Neroni, Shlomo, 1950
Box 5, Folder 7	Ohashi, Yutaka, 1955-1957
Box 5, Folder 8	Outerbridge, Donald, 1950-1956
Box 5, Folder 9	Pantz, Kurt, 1951-1954
Box 5, Folder 10	Pezzati, Peter, 1948-1953
Box 5, Folder 11	Pickhardt, Carl, 1950-1955
Box 5, Folder 12	Prendergast, Maurice, 1949-1951
Box 5, Folder 13	Rickey, George, 1953-1956
Box 5, Folder 14	Roberts, Elizabeth Converse, 1949-1952
Box 5, Folder 15	Saarinen, Lily Swann, 1956-1957
Box 5, Folder 16	Schroeder, Eric, 1949-1950
Box 5, Folder 17	Simms, Carroll, 1950
Box 5, Folder 18	Smith, Sibley, 1949-1957
Box 5, Folder 19	Snyder, Dan, 1951-1956
Box 5, Folder 20	Stamos, Theodoros, 1948-1954

Box 5, Folder 21	Stoltenberg, Donald, 1954-1957
Box 5, Folder 22	Stone, Paul, 1948-1954
Box 5, Folder 23	Sturgis, Katherine, 1946-1957
Box 5, Folder 24	Tobey, Mark, 1949-1957
Box 5, Folder 25	Trefonides, Steven, 1951-1957
Box 5, Folder 26	Tulysewski, Michael, 1953-1957
Box 5, Folder 27	Vander Sluis, George, 1951
Box 5, Folder 28	Wadsworth, Charles, 1953-1957
Box 5, Folder 29	Wagner, Richard, 1954-1956
Box 5, Folder 30	Wells, Cady, 1949-1950
Box 5, Folder 31	Wolfe, Jack, 1952-1957
Box 5, Folder 32	Zerbe, Karl, 1948-1951

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Series 3: Gallery Records, 1934-1958

3.7 Linear feet (Boxes 5-7, 9-11)

Arrangement: The series is arranged as two subseries.

- 3.1: Administrative Files, 1945-1957
- 3.2: Financial Files, 1934-1958

Scope and Contents: The series is divided into administrative and financial files documenting the activities of the art gallery, and the activities of the framing shop where framing services were provided both in-house and by outside vendors.

3.1: Administrative Files, 1945-1957

Scope and Contents: Administrative files include three sets of card files. The first set contains contact information for artists; the second set contains contact information for galleries and customers; and the third set tracks paintings sold or returned to artists. The series also documents drawings, and includes notes and other material documenting the gallery's exhibition of portraits. Also found are insurance documents; loan, artwork, price, and portrait lists; printing proofs; and a few other files relating to the gallery's daily administrative activities.

Arrangement: Portions of the card files were received out of their original order but were rearranged in the most logical order during processing.

Box 9	Card File, Arranged by Artist Name, circa 1951
Box 10	Card File, Arranged by Gallery or Customer Name, circa 1951
Box 11	Card File, Paintings Sold or Returned Arranged by Artist Name, circa 1951
Box 5, Folder 33	Drawings, circa 1952
Box 5, Folder 34-35	Exhibition Notes and Preparation Materials, circa 1952
Box 5, Folder 36	Exhibition of Portraits, Photographs of Gallery and Catalog, 1945
Box 5, Folder 37	Insurance Documents, 1952-1957
Box 5, Folder 38	Lists, General, circa 1952
Box 5, Folder 39	Lists, Artwork Loans, 1954-1957
Box 5, Folder 40	Lists, Group Show Artwork and Price Lists, 1954-1957
Box 5, Folder 41	Lists, Paintings Loaned Out, circa 1952
Box 5, Folder 42	Lists, Portraits, circa 1953 Notes: Includes clippings and photograph of portrait.
Box 6, Folder 1	Meeting Minutes for Score and Script, Inc. Board of Directors, 1952
Box 6, Folder 2	Notes, circa 1952

Box 6, Folder 3	Printing Proofs, circa 1951
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3.2: Financial Files, 1934-1958

Scope and Contents: Financial files contain statements, invoices, and receipts for artist accounts, accounts with gallery and framing store customers, shipping and mailing companies, and other service providers. The majority of the shipping records include delivery destinations and item lists. This subseries also contains a sales order book recording a small number of paintings ordered and a sales ledger documenting frame orders and sales.

Box 6, Folder 4	Artist Statements, A-F, 1952-1957
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Box 6, Folder 5	Artist Statements, G-M , 1950-1957
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Box 6, Folder 6	Artist Statements, N-Z, 1952-1958
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Box 6, Folder 7	Bills, A-C, circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 8	Bills, D-J.G., circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 9	Bills, Jo-K, circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 10	Bills, L-P, circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 11	Bills, R-S, circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 12	Bills, T-W, circa 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 13	Bills, General, circa 1952
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Box 6, Folder 14	Customer Invoices and Statements, A-B, 1948-1957
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Box 6, Folder 15	Customer Invoices and Statements, C-I, 1947-1958
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Box 6, Folder 16	Customer Invoices and Statements, J-N, 1949-1957
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Box 6, Folder 17	Customer Invoices and Statements, O-R, 1951-1957
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Box 6, Folder 18	Customer Invoices and Statements, S, 1952-1958
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Box 6, Folder 19	Customer Invoices and Statements, T-Z, 1952-1957
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Box 6, Folder 20	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, A-B, 1952-1956
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Box 6, Folder 21	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, B-C, 1952-1956
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Box 7, Folder 1	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, C-F, 1952-1956
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Box 7, Folder 2	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, F-G, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 3	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, H, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 4	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, H-L, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 5	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, M, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 6	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, M-O, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 7	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, P-R, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 8	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, S, 1952-1956
Box 7, Folder 9	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, T, 1953-1956
Box 7, Folder 10	Framing, Customer Invoices and Statements, V-W, 1953-1956
Box 7, Folder 11-12	Framing Orders for House of Heydenryk, 1951-1957
Box 7, Folder 13	Mail Receipts, 1934-1953
Box 7, Folder 14	Sales Order Book for Artwork, 1957
Box 7, Folder 15	Sales Order Ledger for Framing, circa 1952
Box 7, Folder 16	Shipping Instructions, Boston Truck Co., 1952-1957
Box 7, Folder 17-18	Shipping Invoices, Boston Truck co., 1951-1957
Box 7, Folder 19	Shipping, J.W. McBrine, 1952-1957
Box 7, Folder 20-21	Shipping Receipts, Railway Express Agency, 1944-1957

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Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1952-1957

0.3 Linear feet (Box 8)

Scope and Contents: Series consists of booklets, a few clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for other galleries, gallery letterhead, and event programs for Boston jazz festivals where exhibitions were held by the Margaret Brown Gallery.

Box 8, Folder 1	Booklets, circa 1955
Box 8, Folder 2	Clippings, circa 1952
Box 8, Folder 3-4	Event Programs, Jazz Festivals, 1953-1957
Box 8, Folder 5	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Other Galleries, circa 1953
Box 8, Folder 6	Gallery Letterhead, circa 1952

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Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1921-circa 1950

0.7 Linear feet (Box 8)

Scope and Contents: Series consists of photographs, and a few transparencies, primarily of works of art. Also found are photographs of the artist Kurt Pantz, and personal photographs of unidentified people who are probably friends of Margaret Brown or Brown family members. The files containing works of art may also include photographs of artists.

Box 8, Folder 7	Personal, 1921-circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 8	Artist, Kurt Pantz, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 9	Works of Art, Artis-Burroughs, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 10	Works of Art, Calder-Cutler, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 11	Works of Art, Cox, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 12	Works of Art, Dali-Fontaine, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 13	Works of Art, Fransioli, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 14	Works of Art, Ghikas, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 15	Works of Art, Graves-Jones, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 16	Works of Art, Kamys-Morrill, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 17	Works of Art, Nevoui-Pacelli, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 18	Works of Art, Pezzati, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 19	Works of Art, Pickhardt-Roberts, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 20	Works of Art, Sanchez-Tredonides, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 21	Works of Art, Still Lifes, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 22	Works of Art, Unidentified, circa 1950

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