



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Giovanni Martino and Martino Family Papers, 1913-2022, in the Archives of American Art

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2015 May 15; Updated 2023 May 22

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Collection Overview

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|--------------------|--|
| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Giovanni Martino and Martino family papers |
| Date: | 1913-2022 |
| Identifier: | AAA.martgiov |
| Creator: | Martino, Giovanni, 1908-1998 |
| Extent: | 2.5 Linear feet |
| Language: | Collection is primarily in English. Some of the Nina Martino papers are in Spanish. |
| Summary: | The papers of Giovanni Martino and Martino family measure 2.5 linear feet and date from 1913 to 2022. Giovanni Martino's career as a painter, and to a lesser extent, his work with his brothers at Martino Studios, is documented through biographical material, correspondence, printed material, photographs, artwork, and one scrapbook. Also found are papers documenting the painting careers of his wife, Eva, and daughters, Nina and Babette. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2005 by Eva, Nina and Babette Martino, Giovanni Martino's wife and daughters and in 2014 and 2022 by Nina F. Martino.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2015. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged. The 2022 addition was processed and finding aid updated by Ricky Gomez in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Giovanni Martino and Martino family papers, 1913-2022. 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

Giovanni Martino (1908-1998) was a painter in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. Martino and his six brothers formed Martino Studios in Philadelphia, where Giovanni worked as a graphic artist. Martino's wife, Eva (1916-2012), and daughters Babette (1945-2011) and Nina F. (1942-) are also artists. Martino studied at the Philadelphia Graphic Sketch Club, Le France Art Institute, Spring Garden Institute, and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He specialized in urban landscape painting and regularly exhibited his work in solo and group exhibitions. In the 1960s, the family moved from Philadelphia to a house in Blue Bell, where each member could have their own painting studio.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Giovanni Martino and Martino family measure 2.5 linear feet and date from 1913 to 2022. Giovanni Martino's career as a painter, and to a lesser extent, his work with his brothers at Martino Studios, is documented through biographical material, correspondence, printed material, photographs, artwork, and one scrapbook. Also found are papers documenting the painting careers of his wife, Eva, and daughters, Nina and Babette.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Giovanni Martino Papers, 1913-2010 (Boxes 1-2, 4; 1.4 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Eva Martino Papers, circa 1930s-2013 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Nina Martino Papers, 1942-2022 (Box 2; 0.5 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Babette Martino Papers, 1945-2013 (Boxes 2-3; 0.4 linear feet)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Scrapbooks

Names:

Martino, Albert
Martino, Antonio
Martino, Babette
Martino, Edmond
Martino, Ernest
Martino, Eva Marinelli
Martino, Frank
Martino, Nina F.

Martino, William

Occupations:

Painters -- Pennsylvania

Container Listing

Series 1: Giovanni Martino Papers, 1944-2001

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, 4)

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 6 subseries.

- 1.1: Biographical Material, 1944-2001
- 1.2: Correspondence, 1942-1983
- 1.3: Printed Material, 1930s-2010
- 1.4: Photographs, 1915-1990s
- 1.5: Artwork, 1913-1980s
- 1.6: Scrapbook, 1933-1959

Scope and Contents: Giovanni Martino's papers include scattered biographical material, such as awards and curriculum vitae; a small amount of correspondence documenting awards, sales, and exhibition of his artwork; and exhibition catalogs, news clippings, and other printed material documenting his career and the activities of the Martino family. Photographs include portraits of Martino as well as family photographs of Martino as a child, with his brothers, and with his wife and children. A few photographs depict Martino painting outdoors. Also found are figure and landscape drawings on paper by Martino. Some of his early drawings are signed with the alias "M. Giovanni." One scrapbook contains letters, news clippings, exhibition publications, and photographs.

Subseries 1.1: Biographical Material, 1944-2001

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Award Certificates, 1952-1987 Notes: Oversize material housed in box 4, folder 1 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Biographical Material, 1950s-2001 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Oversize Award Certificates from Box 1, Folder 1, 1944-1976 |

Subseries 1.2: Correspondence, 1942-1983

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Correspondence, 1942-1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Correspondence, 1955-1983 |

Subseries 1.3: Printed Material, 1930s-2010

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|--------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Book, The Martinos: A Legacy of Art by James McClelland, 2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Exhibition and Event Announcements, 1955-2005 |
| Box 1, Folder 7-17 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1937, 1940-2005 |

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|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 18-20 | Magazines and Bulletins, 1938-1947, 1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 21-27 | News Clippings, circa 1930s-2005 Notes: Oversize material housed in box 4, folder 2 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1950s-1980s |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Oversize News Clippings, 1955-2005 |

Subseries 1.4: Photographs, 1915-1990s

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 29-35 | Giovanni Martino and Others, 1915-1990s Notes: Oversize material housed in box 4, folder 3 |
| Box 2, Folder 1-4 | Photographs of Artwork, circa 1930s-1990s Notes: Oversize material housed in box 4, folder 4 |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | Oversize Photographs of Giovanni Martino and Others from Box 1, Folders 29-35, 1928-1938 |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Oversize Photographs of Artwork from Box 2, Folders 1-4, 1941 |

Subseries 1.5: Artwork, 1913-1980s

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Artwork, 1913-1980 Notes: Oversized material housed in box 4, folder 5 |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Oversized Artwork from Box 2, Folder 5, circa 1920s-1980s |

Subseries 1.6: Scrapbook, 1933-1959

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|-----------------|----------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Scrapbook, 1933-1959 |
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Series 2: Eva Martino Papers, circa 1930s-2013

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Eva Martino's papers consist of awards, exhibition publications, and many news clippings documenting her career as a painter. Many of these publications are for group exhibitions with her husband and daughters. Also found are a few original ink drawings by Eva, personal photographs of her and her family, and few letters documenting her professional activities.

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| Box 2, Folder 7 | Award Certificates and Prize Lists, 1965-1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Curriculum Vitae, 2006 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Drawings, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Exhibition Announcements, 1971-2013 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1955-2003 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Letters, circa 1992-2002 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | News Clippings, 1953-2008 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Photographs, circa 1930s-2002 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1980s-2002 |

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Series 3: Nina Martino Papers, 1942-2022

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Nina Martino's papers include documentation on exhibitions, including a retrospective of her work entitled "Illumined Solitude," special events, records of her work as a student at Temple University, and awards. Also found are childhood drawings and ink drawings of figures and animals, as well as watercolor and ink illustrations. Photographs depict Nina as a child, with her family, and her artwork.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Awards, 1963-2018 |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Certificates and Diplomas, 1975-1976 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Biographical Information, 1942, 2012 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Book, Illumined Solitude: A Retrospective of Paintings 1980-2007, 2008 |
| Box 2, Folder 19-20 | Drawings, circa 1953-1957, circa 1970s-1996 |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Sketches, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 21-22 | Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, circa 1971-2022 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Festival Programs, 1995-2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | High School Graduation, 1960 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Illustrations, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Letters, 1988-2018 |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Masters Thesis, 1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | News Clippings, 1955-2018 |
| Box 2, Folder 29 | Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Benefit Auction, 2013 |
| Box 2, Folder 30 | Photographs, circa 1944-1999 |
| Box 2, Folder 31 | Poetry, circa 1970s-2000s |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | Scrapbook Pages, 1968-1973 |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | Temple University Records, 1970-1972 |

Box 2, Folder 34

Donation of Works, 2005, 2015-2019

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Series 4: Babette Martino Papers, 1945-2013

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Found here are the papers documenting Babette Martino's career as a painter, including awards, professional correspondence, fellowship records, exhibition catalogs, publications, and a portfolio containing images of her work. Additionally, her papers include a few personal items such as her baby book and photographs depicting Babette as a child, with family, and at events.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 35 | Awards, 1957-2010 |
| Box 2, Folder 36 | Baby Book, 1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 37 | Correspondence, 1969-2008 |
| Box 2, Folder 38 | Curriculum Vitae, 2005 |
| Box 2, Folder 39 | Magazines, 2007, 2005, 1997 |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Pew Fellowship, 2000 |
| Box 3, Folder 2-3 | Photographs, circa 1950s-1990s |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Printed Material, 1971-2013 |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Professional Portfolio, 2006 |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Scrapbook Pages, 1966-1970s |

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