



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Martyl Langsdorf papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Martyl Langsdorf papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.martyl
<b>Date:</b>	1918-1977
<b>Extent:</b>	2.6 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Martyl, 1917-2013
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Material on reels 2992-2994 donated 1977 by Martyl S. Langsdorf. Material on reel 1364 lent for microfilming 1977 by Langsdorf. Unmicrofilmed material is a combination of the unfiled portion of the 1977 gift and the 1990 transferred material from General Services Administration. The GSA received the material originally from Martyl Langsdorf for their files on New Deal art.

### Location of Originals

Reel 1364: Originals returned to Martyl S. Langsdorf after microfilming.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 1364 & 2992-2994 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Martyl (1917-2013) was a painter in Chicago, Illinois. Full name is Martyl Schweig Langsdorf.

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Martyl Langsdorf, professionally known by just her first name, Martyl, date from 1918 to 1977 and measure 2.6 linear feet. Included within the collection is correspondence; subject files; biographical data; writings and notes; sketches; photographs; exhibition catalogs and announcements; guest books; price lists; receipts; reproductions; clippings; and printed materials.

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## Scope and Contents

Sketches, 1936-1975, made in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Japan. In addition there is a 1929 newspaper clipping.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical data; letters, 1936-1937, to her mother Aimee Schweig from Thomas Hart Benton, John Steuart Curry, Joe Jones and Grant Wood; files of letters from Carl Holty, Horst W. Janson and Lancelot Law Whyte; a file on Charles Hawthorne containing his painting notes and a photo; subject files on the ACA Gallery, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Art Institute of Chicago, Feingarten Gallery, Kovlar Gallery, Oriental Institute, the Renaissance Society, and the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois, containing correspondence and financial material; writings and notes; sketches of Langsdorf by friends; exhibition catalogs and announcements; guest books; price lists; receipts for sales and rentals of her paintings; printed material on the St. Genevieve School of art; and photographs, ca. 1935-1970, of Langsdorf, her family, her paintings, exhibition installations, Langsdorf at work on a mural for the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois, and artists Thomas Hart Benton, Arnold Blanch, Adolf Dehn, Doris Lee, Boardman Robinson, Sequieros, and others, and a photograph by Fritz Henle, 1940, of a picnic at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence with Edward Rowan of the Public Buildings Administration, Section of Fine Arts, and contracts, 1940-1944, concerning Langsdorf's watercolors for the Carville, La. Marine Hospital, murals for post offices in Russell, Kansas and St. Genevieve, Missouri, and for the Recorder of Deeds Building in Washington, D.C., and for related exhibitions; a photocopy of a letter from collector Joseph Hirshhorn, Jan. 18, 1943, regarding his purchases of Langsdorf's work; general correspondence, 1958-1972; price lists; and printed material, 1937-1976, including press releases, archaeological newsletters, exhibition announcements and clippings.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art and state -- United States

Mural painting and decoration, American  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- Illinois -- Chicago  
Women painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

Names:

ACA Galleries  
Art Institute of Chicago  
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975  
Blanch, Arnold, 1896-1968  
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center  
Curry, John Steuart, 1897-1946  
Dehn, Adolf, 1895-1968  
Feingarten Galleries  
Hawthorne, Charles Webster, 1872-1930  
Henle, Fritz, 1909-  
Holty, Carl, 1900-1973  
Janson, H. W. (Horst Woldemar), 1913-  
Kovlar Gallery (Chicago, Ill.)  
Lee, Doris, 1905-1983  
Martyl, 1917-2013  
Robinson, Boardman, 1876-1952  
Rowan, Edward Beatty, 1898-1946  
Sequieros  
St. Genevieve School of Art  
United States. Public Buildings Administration. Section of Fine Arts  
University of Chicago. Oriental Institute  
University of Chicago. Renaissance Society

Occupations:

Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago