



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Audrey McMahon Papers,  
1935-1980, in the Archives of American Art

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March 1, 2004

Archives of American Art  
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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>	Audrey McMahon papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.mcmaudr
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1980
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	McMahon, Audrey, 1900?-1981
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of Audrey McMahon measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1935 through 1980. Found are correspondence, writings, notes and research files, and printed material assembled mainly during the late 1960s while assisting Francis V. O'Connor complete <i>Federal Support for the Visual Arts: The New Deal and Now</i> (1969) and <i>The New Deal Art Projects: An Anthology of Memoirs</i> (1970) and, to a lesser degree, miscellaneous files relating to McMahon's activities as Regional Director of the WPA Federal Art Project for New York and New Jersey . Included are photocopies of original correspondence (1935-41) between McMahon and Holger Cahill and Brehon Somervell, held by the National Archives.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Audrey McMahon papers were donated to the Archives in 1997 by Geraldine Rhoads, executor of McMahon's estate. The collection includes photocopies of papers most likely held by the National Archives.

### Related Material

The bulk of Audrey McMahon's papers reside in the National Archives, together with the records of the WPA Federal Artist Project files. The Archives of American Art holds a 1964 interview with McMahon done by Harlan Phillips as part of the Archives New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project.

### Processing Information

The papers were processed to a preliminary level in 2003 by a volunteer in the AAA New York Regional Office.

### Preferred Citation

Audrey McMahon papers, 1935-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

## Terms of Use

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## Biographical Note

Audrey McMahon served under Holger Cahill as Regional Director for the WPA Federal Art Project for New York and New Jersey from 1935 to 1939. She died at age 87 in 1981.

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## Scope and Content Note

The scattered papers of Audrey McMahon measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1935 through 1980. Found are correspondence, writings, notes and research files, and printed material assembled mainly during the late 1960s while assisting Francis V. O'Connor complete *Federal Support for the Visual Arts: The New Deal and Now* (1969) and *The New Deal Art Projects: An Anthology of Memoirs* (1970) and, to a lesser degree, miscellaneous files relating to McMahon's activities as Regional Director of the WPA Federal Art Project for New York and New Jersey. Included are photocopies of original correspondence (1935-41) between McMahon and Holger Cahill and Brehon Somervell, held by the National Archives.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series:

- Series 1: Audrey McMahon's Papers, 1935-1980 (Box 1; 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:

Subjects:

Art and state  
Federal aid to the arts  
New Deal, 1933-1939

Names:

Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960

Federal Art Project (N.J.)

Federal Art Project (N.Y.)

O'Connor, Francis V.

Somervell, Brehon Burke, 1892-1955

United States. Works Progress Administration

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Audrey McMahon's Papers, 1935-1980

*0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, undated
Box 1, Folder 2-4	Correspondence, 1938-1976, undated
Box 1, Folder 5-8	Miscellaneous Writings, Manuscripts, and Research Notes by McMahon Regarding the WPA Federal Art Project in New York and New Jersey, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	WPA, New York By-Laws, Lists, Reports, and Miscellany, circa 1935, 1937, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Incomplete Manuscript by Holger Cahill (Record of Program Operation and Accomplishment), 1943
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Francis O'Connor Research Project Notes, 1968, undated
Box 1, Folder 13-16	Printed Material (Catalogs, Monographs, and Clippings), 1938-1980

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