



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Doris Meltzer papers, 1930-1976, in the Archives of American Art

Sabine Lipten

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2023 June 16

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-1976.....	4
Series 2: Gallery Records, 1951-1976.....	5
Series 3: Professional Files, 1930-1967.....	6
Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1935-1976.....	7
Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1946-1971.....	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Doris Meltzer papers
Date:	1930-1976
Identifier:	AAA.meltdori
Creator:	Meltzer, Doris, 1908-1977 Doris Meltzer Gallery
Extent:	2.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Doris Meltzer papers which measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1930-1976 document Meltzer's career as an artist, gallery owner and art dealer. The papers also document Meltzer's involvement with the National Serigraph Society, which influenced the popularization of screen printing as a fine art medium. Materials in this collection include correspondence, gallery records, professional files such as fellowship applications and artwork sale records, printed materials and photographic materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Samuel C. Miller, Director of the Newark Museum and friend and executor of Meltzer's estate.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sabine Lipten in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Doris Meltzer papers, 1930-1976. 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.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Doris Meltzer (1908-1977) was an art dealer and printmaker from Ulster County, New York. While a frequent traveler, Meltzer established her life and career in New York City by attending the Art Students League of New York, before joining the American Federation of Arts and starting the Doris Meltzer Gallery. Meltzer also served as the director of the National Serigraph Society from 1945 to 1962 where she organized and participated in several the society's exhibitions and workshops. Her work was also included in the 1940 Museum of Modern Art show *American Color Prints Under \$10* and is now in the collection of the National Gallery of Art and the Virginia Museum of Art.

Scope and Contents

The Doris Meltzer papers which measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1930-1976 document Meltzer's career as an artist, gallery owner and art dealer. The papers also document Meltzer's involvement with the National Serigraph Society, which influenced the popularization of screen printing as a fine art medium. Materials in this collection include correspondence, gallery records, professional files, printed materials and photographic materials. Correspondence is largely personal in nature and documents Meltzer's friendship with other members of the art world including Edward Cleghorn, an assistant director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, artist Carl E. Pickhardt Jr and his wife Rosamond Forbes, daughter of Fogg Museum director Edward W. Forbes. Professional correspondence consists of letters regarding the loaning and exhibition of artwork, along with the establishment of Doris Meltzer Gallery. Gallery records document the management and dealings of the Doris Meltzer Gallery through appraisal, inventory, sales and consignment of artwork records as well as compiled subject files on artists that the gallery held shows for. Professional files document the sale of Meltzer's own artwork along with her participation in different juried exhibitions. The series also includes different applications for various teaching and arts fellowships. Professional files also contain information related to Meltzer's tenure as the director of the National Serigraph Society. Printed materials include publicity materials, exhibition catalogs and announcements related to Meltzer, her gallery and the National Serigraph Society. Photographic material is of exhibitions and artwork represented and sold by the Doris Meltzer Gallery along with images of Meltzer working and attending events there. Also found are photographs of exhibitions, events and the office of the Serigraph Gallery.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-1976 (0.6 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Gallery Records, 1951-1976 (0.4 Linear feet: Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Professional Files, 1930-1967 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1935-1976 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1946-1971 (1 Linear foot: Box 2-4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women art dealers
Women artists

Names:

National Serigraph Society

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-1976

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is largely personal in nature and documents Meltzer's friendship with other members of the art world including Edward Cleghorn the assistant director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, artist Carl E. Pickhardt Jr., and his wife Rosamond Forbes, daughter of Fogg Museum director Edward W. Forbes. Professional correspondence consists of letters regarding the loaning, exhibition of artwork, along with the establishment of Doris Meltzer Gallery.

This series is arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1-3	Personal Correspondence, 1953-1959
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Personal Correspondence, 1960-1965
Box 1, Folder 7	Personal Correspondence, 1966-1970
Box 1, Folder 8	Personal Correspondence, 1971-1974
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Personal Correspondence, 1975-1976
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Greeting Cards and Wedding Invites, circa 1953-1976
Box 1, Folder 13	Professional Correspondence, 1944-1976
Box 1, Folder 14	Professional Correspondence with Hans Fr. Neilsen, 1963-1969
Box 1, Folder 15	Doris Meltzer Gallery Professional Address Lists, circa 1955-1965

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Gallery Records, 1951-1976

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Gallery Records document the establishment and management of the Doris Meltzer Gallery. Materials include documentation of inventory, sales and consignment of artwork managed by the Meltzer gallery as well as compiled information on artists that the gallery held shows for and appraisal of artwork and artist estates.

Box 1, Folder 16	Fine Arts Dealer Application and Business Tax Certificate, 1963, 1969
Box 1, Folder 17	Doris Meltzer Gallery Leases, 1964-1969
Box 1, Folder 18	Artwork Appraisal Records, 1976
Box 1, Folder 19	Artwork Consignment Records, 1964-1976
Box 1, Folder 20	Inventory, Sales and Loans, 1967-1975
Box 1, Folder 21	Gifts to Other Institutions, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 22	Information on Edward Waldo Forbes Estate, 1970
Box 1, Folder 23	Information on Kurt Lewy and Jankel Adler, circa 1959-1963
Box 1, Folder 24	Information on Lilo Salberg and Maria Martner, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 25	Carl Pickhart Exhibition Documents, 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 26	Artwork Forgery Lawsuits, 1951-1974
Box 1, Folder 27	Gallery Rent Lawsuit, 1972
Box 2, Folder 1	Miscellaneous Doris Meltzer Gallery Notes, circa 1968-1974

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Professional Files, 1930-1967

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Professional Files document Meltzer's participation in different juried exhibitions, teaching and arts fellowship opportunities. This series also contains information related to Meltzer's tenure as the director of the National Serigraph Society. Additional materials include sale records of Meltzer's artwork and a subject file on poet Kenneth Fearing, including photographs of sketches Meltzer did of the poet.

Box 2, Folder 3-4	National Serigraph Society, 1946-1962
Box 2, Folder 2	Sales Records of Meltzer Artwork, 1940-1956
Box 2, Folder 5	Juried Exhibition Submission Information, 1941-1948
Box 2, Folder 6	Professional Organization Membership Lists, circa 1949-1961
Box 2, Folder 7	Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship Application, 1951
Box 2, Folder 8	Fulbright Application, 1951-1952
Box 2, Folder 9	International Exchange of Persons Application, 1952-1954
Box 2, Folder 10	Elementary and High School Art Teacher Applications and Certificates, 1930-1944
Box 2, Folder 11	Artist Equity Bureau Teaching Application, 1950-1951
Box 2, Folder 12	Subject Files on Poet Kenneth Fearing, 1961

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1935-1976

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed Material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs for various exhibitions held at the Doris Meltzer gallery. Additional exhibition catalogs reflect Federal Arts Program shows and exhibitions of Meltzer's artwork. Printed materials also the National Serigraph Society through press releases, catalogs, membership information and the organization's newsletter *Serigraph Quarterly*.

Box 2, Folder 13	Exhibition Catalogs, Meltzer, 1944-1946
Box 2, Folder 14	Exhibition Catalogs, Doris Meltzer Gallery, 1957, 1960
Box 2, Folder 15	Exhibition Announcements, Doris Meltzer Gallery, 1955-1972
Box 2, Folder 16	Exhibition Catalogs, Federal Art Gallery, circa 1935-1943
Box 2, Folder 17	National Serigraph Society Exhibition Catalogs, 1944-1959
Box 2, Folder 18	National Serigraph Announcements and Press Releases, circa 1945-1953
Box 2, Folder 19	National Serigraph Society Membership Ephemera, 1946-1953
Box 2, Folder 20	Serigraph Quarterly Newsletters, 1946-1950
Box 2, Folder 21	Silkscreen Printing, 1943
Box 2, Folder 22	Newsclippings, 1937-1976
Box 2, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1940-1972

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1946-1971

1 Linear foot (Box 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs, slides and negatives of exhibitions and artwork represented and sold by the Doris Meltzer Gallery along with images of Meltzer working and attending events there. Also found are photographs of exhibitions and events and the office of the Serigraph Gallery. Of note are photographs of a serigraph gallery workshop demonstrating how to create a silk screen print.

Box 2, Folder 24	Photographs, Meltzer at Doris Meltzer Gallery, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 25	Photographs, Art Treasures for a Small Museum (Nov. 20-Jan. 7, 1957), Doris Meltzer Gallery Exhibition, circa 1957
Box 2, Folder 26	Photographs, Northwest Coast Native American Art Exhibition, Doris Meltzer Gallery, circa 1957
Box 2, Folder 27	Photographs, Kay Christensen Exhibition, Doris Meltzer Gallery, 1959
Box 2, Folder 28	Photographs, Kurt Lewy: Painting, Drawings, and Enamels (Oct. 1959), Doris Meltzer Gallery, circa 1959
Box 2, Folder 29	Photographs, Miscellaneous Doris Meltzer Gallery Exhibition, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 30	Photographs, Meltzer Collection of Works by August Rodin, circa 1958
Box 2, Folder 31	Photographs, Sold Rodin Paintings, circa 1951-1958
Box 2, Folder 32-33	Photographs, Artwork Sold by Doris Meltzer Gallery, circa 1954-1962
Box 3, Folder 1-3	Photographs, Miscellaneous Artwork Represented by Doris Meltzer Gallery, circa 1954-1962
Box 3, Folder 4	Photographs, Serigraph Gallery and Events, circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 5	Photographs, Serigraph Gallery Workshops, circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 6-8	Photographs, Artwork by Serigraphs International Artists, circa 1953-1959
Box 4, Folder 1	Photographs, The Making of a Serigraph, circa 1946-1953
Box 4, Folder 2	Photographs, Home Displayed Serigraph Prints, circa 1946-1967
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs, Travel, circa 1964
Box 4, Folder 4	Slides, Exhibitions, 1970
Box 4, Folder 5	Slides, East Asian Bazaar, 1971

Box 4, Folder 6

Negatives, Miscellaneous Artwork, circa 1953-1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)