



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Vera Michels Papers, circa 1920-1976, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2022/11/30

Archives of American Art  
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<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>	Vera Michels papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1920-1976
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.michvera
<b>Creator:</b>	Michels, Vera, 1894-1990
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of painter Vera Michels date from circa 1920 to 1976 and measure 0.2 linear feet. Found are sketches and a drawing by Michels, three notebooks kept by Michels during George Otis's landscape painting class, and photographs of works of art by Michels.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Vera Michels donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1976.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Vera Michels papers, circa 1920-1976. 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

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## Biographical / Historical

Vera Michels (1894-1990) was a painter in Greenbrae, California. She studied under George Demont Otis.

## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter Vera Michels date from circa 1920 to 1976 and measure 0.2 linear feet. Found are three sketches by Michels, three notebooks kept by Michels during George Otis's landscape painting class, and photographs of works of art by Michels.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

Women artists  
Women painters

Names:

Otis, George Demont, 1879-1962

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- Greenbrae

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Vera Michels Papers, circa 1920-1976

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Artworks consist of a ink sketch of a woman, a pencil sketch of a monkey, and an oil sketch of a cat. Also found are two photocopies of woodcuts by George Otis. Three notebooks kept from 1935 to 1938 are from Michels's class with George Otis on landscape painting and contain handwritten notes and pencil sketches. Photographs are of works of art.

Box 1, Folder 1      Artwork (sketches), circa 1920-circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 2      Notebooks, 1935-1938

Box 1, Folder 3      Photographs, circa 1950-1976

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