



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Buell Mullen Papers, 1942-1982, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Buell Mullen papers
Date:	1942-1982
Identifier:	AAA.mullbuel
Creator:	Mullen, Buell (1901-1986)
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of muralist Buell Mullen measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1982. Found are scattered biographical material, professional correspondence, information on mixing epoxy resins, printed material, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Buell Mullen donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1982.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Buell Mullen papers, 1942-1982. 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

Buell Mullen (1901-1986) was a muralist and portrait painter active in New York City and Chicago, Illinois. She developed a process for painting on stainless steel.

Buell Mullen was born Frances Vedder Buell in Chicago, Illinois. Drawn to its ability to reflect light, Mullen developed a technique combining etching and acid treatments to ensure oil paintings adhere to stainless steel. Her first work on stainless steel was a portrait of General John J. Pershing. Later, she produced a portrait of President Dwight Eisenhower. She completed many murals for steel companies, colleges, and institutions around the Great Lakes region. Also, she served as a United States representative to UNESCO.

Buell married J. Bernard Mullen and together they had two sons. Mullen died in Chicago, Illinois in 1986.

Scope and Contents

The papers of muralist Buell Mullen measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1982. Found are scattered biographical material, professional correspondence, information on mixing epoxy resins, printed material, and photographs.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women muralists
- Women painters

Occupations:

- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Portrait painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Buell Mullen papers, 1942-1982

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include a resume and an honorary degree from Lake Erie College in Painsville, Ohio. Largely, correspondence concerns Mullen's murals. Letters are from Bowling Green State University, Milton Eisenhower, General Motors, International Minerals and Chemicals Corporation, Johns Hopkins University, Lake Erie College, Dean Rusk, Simon Fraser University, UNESCO, and Urban Coalition. Printed materials consist of published articles by Mullen concerning the process of painting on metal, clippings, mural dedication invitations, and scattered reproductions of works of art. Photographs are of Mullen at work, with her artwork, and presenting her finished works. Also found are photographs of her murals and smaller works of art.

Box 1, Folder 1	Honorary Degree, Lake Erie College, 1970
Box 1, Folder 2	Resume, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 3	Epoxy Mixing Technique, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1956-1982
Box 1, Folder 5	Articles, by Buell Mullen, 1950s-1969
Box 1, Folder 6	Clippings, 1940s-1960
Box 1, Folder 7	Mural Dedication Invitations and Brochures, 1942-1969
Box 1, Folder 8	Program, 150th Anniversary Ball of the Seventh Regiment of New York, 1956
Box 1, Folder 9	Reproductions of Works of Art, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, of Buell Mullen, 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs, of Murals and Works of Art, 1940s-circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 12	Slides, 1960s

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