



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Richard Murray
Research Material Regarding Abbott
Handerson Thayer, 1948-2004, bulk
1994-2001, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Richard Murray research material regarding Abbott Handerson Thayer
Identifier:	AAA.murrrich2
Date:	1948-2004 (bulk 1994-2001)
Extent:	9 Linear feet
Creator:	Murray, Richard N., 1942-2006
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Richard Murray research material regarding Abbot Handerson Thayer measures 9.0 linear feet and dates from 1948 to 2004, with the bulk of the material dating from 1994 to 2001. Project files primarily document Murray's work on the 1999 exhibition "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art" and subsequent Thayer book project. Also found are extensive research files on Abbott Handerson Thayer and his specific works of art as well as photographic materials depicting Thayer, his family, studio, house, and works of art.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated in 2011 by the Smithsonian American Art Museum via George Gurney, curator.

Related Material

The Archives of American Art holds several collections related to Abbott Handerson Thayer. These include the Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer family papers, 1851-1999; research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1895-1990, donated by Thomas B. Brumbaugh; the Abbott Handerson Thayer letter and drawings to Caroline Peddle Ball, circa 1890-1893; "The Drawings of Abbott Thayer", by Elizabeth Robins Pennell, circa 1921; and the Nelson and Henry C. White research material, 1898-1978, which includes many letters, photographs, and other material originally belonging to the Thayer family.

Processing Information

The collection was processed in 2011-2012 by Erin Kinhart.

Preferred Citation

Richard Murray research material regarding Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1948-2004, bulk 1994-2001. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Richard Murray research material regarding Abbott Handerson Thayer is owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

Richard Murray (1942-2006) was a curator and art historian at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Murray specialized in the works of Abbott Thayer and curated the 1999 exhibition, "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art." Before his death Murray was researching to write a book on Thayer's paintings and his involvement with conservation projects.

Scope and Content Note

The Richard Murray research material regarding Abbot Handerson Thayer measures 9.0 linear feet and dates from 1948 to 2004, with the bulk of the material dating from 1994 to 2001. Project files primarily document Murray's work on the 1999 exhibition "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art" and subsequent Thayer book project. Also found are extensive research files on Abbott Handerson Thayer and his specific works of art as well as photographic materials depicting Thayer, his family, studio, house, and works of art.

Project files document Richard Murray's research projects regarding Abbott Handerson Thayer. Found here is Murray's correspondence with fellow Thayer scholars, collectors, art museums, and Thayer family members. Also included are planning documents, loan forms, press clippings, conservation requests, checklists and other materials for the exhibition "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art" which Murray curated at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (formerly National Museum of American Art) in 1999. Additional project files are primarily for his proposed book on Abbott Thayer and include research grant applications, fundraising, photograph orders, and reviews of the initial manuscript.

Research files contain documentation on archival collections regarding Thayer, subject files on family members, models, and friends of Thayer, private and museum collections of his artwork, and other subject's relevant to Thayer's career as an artist. Files may include Murray's correspondence and notes. However, the bulk of the material consists of photocopies or microfilm print-outs of archival documents, newspaper clippings, and other printed material. Also found are files on specific works of art by Thayer. These files may contain catalog descriptions, provenance information, correspondence, and images of the work of art.

Photographs depict Thayer, his family, friends, studio, house, and his artwork. Also found are negatives, color transparencies, and slides of these photographs. Of note are photographs of x-rays of Thayer paintings. Researchers should note that all photographs of Thayer, his family, house, studio, and artwork are copy prints of original photographs which Richard Murray requested from the owners for his research.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series:

- Series 1: Project Files, 1990-2004 (Box 1-2; 1.2 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Research Files, 1948-2004 (Box 2-8; 6.1 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1961, circa 1990s-2001 (Box 8-9; 1.7 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:

Artists' studios -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Slides (photographs)

Names:

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921

Occupations:

Painters -- New Hampshire -- Dublin

Container Listing

Series 1: Project Files, 1990-2004

(Box 1-2; 1.2 linear feet)

Project files document Richard Murray's various research projects regarding Abbott Handerson Thayer. Included are records regarding the exhibition "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art" which he curated at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (formerly National Museum of American Art) in 1999. These files include planning documents, loan forms, press clippings, conservation requests, exhibition text, and exhibition checklists. Additional project files are primarily for his proposed book on Abbott Thayer and include research grant applications, fundraising, photograph orders, and reviews of the initial manuscript. Also found is Murray's correspondence regarding his Thayer projects. Correspondence is with fellow Thayer scholars, collectors, art museums, and Thayer family members.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Collections-Based Research Grant, 1999-2000 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 3	Contacts, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 4-8	Correspondence regarding Thayer Projects, 1990-2004 <i>(5 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 9	Desk Calendars, 1998-2000
Box 1, Folder 10	Financial Records, 1997-2001
Box 1, Folder 11	Fundraising, 1997-1999
Box 1, Folder 12	Impressionism Installation Draft Checklist, 1998
Box 1, Folder 13	Monadnock Seminar, 2004
Box 1, Folder 14	National Museum of American Art Graph Exhibition Schedule, 1997-2000
Box 1, Folder 15	Outline for Abbott Thayer Book, 2000
Box 1, Folder 16	Photograph Orders, 1994-2001
Box 1, Folder 17	Photograph Orders, Frick Art Reference Library, 1998-2000
Box 1, Folder 18	Reviews of Manuscript, 2001-2002
Box 1, Folder 19	Thayer Book Possible Sponsors, circa 1998-2001

Box 1, Folder	Exhibition, "Abbott Thayer: The Nature of Art"
Box 1, Folder 20	Bibliography, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 21	Book Text, 1998
Box 1, Folder 22	Brochure, 1999
Box 1, Folder 23	Budget and Expenditures, 1996-2000
Box 1, Folder 24	Conservation Requests and Reports, 1997-1999
Box 1, Folder 25	Exhibition Approval, 1994-1997
Box 1, Folder 26-27	Exhibition Planning Documents, 1994-1999 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 28	Images Dropped from Book, 1997, 1998
Box 1, Folder 29	Loans, 1995-1999
Box 1, Folder 30	Opening Reception, 1999
Box 1, Folder 31	Permissions to X-Ray, 1999
Box 1, Folder 32	Press Clippings, 1999
Box 1, Folder 33	Special Exhibition Fund Grant Application, 1995-1996
Box 1, Folder 34	Special Exhibition Fund Grant Narrative, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 35	Wall Text, 1999
Box 1, Folder 36-39	Working Exhibition Checklists, circa 1996-1999 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Working Exhibition Checklists, circa 1996-1999 (3 folders)

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Series 2: Research Files, 1948-2004

(Box 2-8; 6.1 linear feet)

Research files contain documentation on archival collections regarding Thayer, subject files on family members, models, and friends of Thayer, private and museum collections of his artwork, and other subject's relevant to Thayer's career as an artist. Of note is a group of research files on concealing coloration, and files on the "Centennial Exhibition of Paintings by Abbott Handerson Thayer." Files may include Murray's correspondence and notes. However, the bulk of the material consists of photocopies or microfilm print-outs of archival documents, newspaper clippings, and other printed material.

Murray also maintained a set of research files on specific works of art by Thayer. Folder headings for these files he included the title of the work and in most cases the gallery, museum, or private owner of the work. Some files do not include owner information. The files may contain catalog descriptions, provenance information, correspondence, and images of the work of art.

Folders are arranged alphabetically. There is also a grouping of unsorted research material which may relate to or duplicate material in other files. General research files are followed by a separate arrangement of files on specific works of art which are arranged alphabetically by title. In most cases folder headings have been transcribed from Murray's original folder labels.

Box 2, Folder 4	Abbott Handerson Thayer Papers, Sketches, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 5	Abbott Handerson Thayer Papers, Sketchbooks, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 6	Abbott Thayer Death Mask/Life Mask, 1997
Box 2, Folder 7	Addison Gallery of American Art, 1997, 1999
Box 2, Folder 8	American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1996-1997
Box 2, Folder 9	Audubon Society, circa 1999
Box 2, Folder 10	Background on Abbott Thayer, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 11	Bartlett Family Collection, 1998
Box 2, Folder 12-13	Bloede Family, circa 1996-2004 (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 14	Bolle Collection, circa 1997
Box 2, Folder 15	Braun Collection, circa 1997
Box 2, Folder 16	Brooklyn Art Association, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 17	Brooklyn Museum, 1997

Box 2, Folder 18	Carnegie Institute Records, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 19	Castano Gallery Records, 1997
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Centennial Exhibition of Paintings by Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1949-1951 (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 22-24	Charles Lang Freer Papers, circa 1990s (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 25	Chesterwood Collection, 1997-2000
Box 2, Folder 26	Chronologies, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 27	Clemens, Samuel (Mark Twain), circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder	Concealing Coloration
Box 2, Folder 28	Excerpts from Book Concealing-Coloration in the Animal Kingdom, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 29	Exhibitions, circa 1990s, 2000
Box 2, Folder 30	Franklin Roosevelt, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 31-34	General, circa 1990s, 2000 (4 folders)
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Box 2, Folder 36	Military Camo (Other than Roosevelt), circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 37	Ship Camouflage, 2001
Box 2, Folder 38	Theodore Roosevelt, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 39	Corot, J. B. C., circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 40	Decorative Angels, circa 1997
Box 3, Folder 1	Documentation regarding Photographs of Abbott Thayer and Thayer Family, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 2	Dow, Thomas Millie, circa 1990s-2000

Box 3, Folder 3	Dublin, New Hampshire, 1997-1999
Box 3, Folder 4	Emerson, Ralph Waldo, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibition Loan List, "Abbott H. Thayer Retrospective" at Everson Museum of Art, 1997
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Exhibition Records, circa 1990s, 2000 (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 8	Fashion (Hats and Birds), 2002
Box 3, Folder 9	Faulkner, Barry, 1997
Box 3, Folder 10	Fisher, Ellen Thayer, 2000
Box 3, Folder 11	Freer Gallery of Art Collection, 1997-2001
Box 3, Folder 12-13	Frames, circa 1990s, 2000 (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 14	Fuller, Elizabeth, circa 1999
Box 3, Folder 15-17	Gellatly, John, circa 1990s (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 18	General Theories, Statements, Opinions on Art, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 19	Gerome, Jean Leon, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 20	Gladys Thayer Reasoner on Abbott Thayer's Death, 1999
Box 3, Folder 21	Helena DeKay Gilder Diary, 1999
Box 3, Folder 22	Henry Allison Photographs and Related Correspondence, 1997
Box 3, Folder 23	Inventory of American Paintings, Artist Index, 1992
Box 3, Folder 24	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 1994
Box 3, Folder 25	James, William, 1990s-2000
Box 3, Folder 26-29	Journal and Magazine Articles, Book Excerpts, circa 1990s

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Box 3, Folder 30	Juley Photograph Collection, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 31	Kent, Rockwell, circa 1999
Box 3, Folder 32	La Farge, John, 1997
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Box 3, Folder 36	Letters, Abbott Thayer to Clara May, circa 1990s
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Box 4, Folder 2	Mystery of "Gladys" Painting, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 3	National Museum of American Art, List of Works by Thayer, 1997
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Box 4, Folder 30	Research Paper, Elizabeth Lee, "Painting Against the Modern: Beauty, Filth and Disease in the Art of Abbott Thayer", circa 1997
Box 4, Folder 31	Research Paper, Karen Phillips, "Abbott Handerson Thayer and the Development of His Winged Figures", 1986
Box 4, Folder 32	Research Paper, Elizabeth Walmsley, "A Preliminary Investigation into the Painting Techniques of Abbott Handerson Thayer", 1989
Box 4, Folder 33	Research Trip, London and Glasgow, 2000
Box 4, Folder 34	Research Trip, Mid-West, 1997
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Box 5, Folder 13	Thayer, Gladys, circa 1995
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Box 6, Folder 43 *Girl Arranging Her Hair*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

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- Box 6, Folder 65 *Maids in the Meadow*, Colby College Museum of Art, 2000
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- Box 7, Folder 4 *Margaret MacKittrick*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1997
- Box 7, Folder 5 *Meditation*, Butler Institute, 1999
- Box 7, Folder 6 *Minerva in a Chariot*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
- Box 7, Folder 7 *Monadnock*, Jean Plunket, 1997-1999
- Box 7, Folder 8 *Monadnock Angel*, Addison Gallery, 1997
- Box 7, Folder 9 *Monadnock in Winter*, Freer Gallery of Art, 1995-1999
- Box 7, Folder 10 *Monadnock Mountain*, Freer Gallery of Art, circa 1992-1997

Box 7, Folder 11 *Monadnock No. 2*, Freer Gallery of Art, circa 1995-1997

Box 7, Folder 12 *Mother and Child*, RISD Museum, circa 1990s

Box 7, Folder 13 *Mount Monadnock (1897)*, 1999-2000

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Box 7, Folder 28 *Portrait of Alice Rich*, circa 1997

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Box 7, Folder 31 *Portrait of Beatrice*, Everson Museum of Art, 1997

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Box 7, Folder 33 *Portrait of Bessie Price*, Willard G. Clark, 1993-1998

Box 7, Folder 34 *Portrait of Elise Dufour*, circa 1990s

Box 7, Folder 35 *Portrait of Jennie Remington*, 1998

Box 7, Folder 36 *Portrait of Joe Evans*, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 37 *Portrait of Kate Bloede Thayer*, Sewell C. Biggs Museum of American Art, 1997

Box 7, Folder 38 *Portrait of a Lady*, Cincinnati Art Museum (Deaccessioned), 1997

Box 7, Folder 39 *Portrait of a Lady*, Freer Gallery of Art, circa 1992-1997

Box 7, Folder 40 *Portrait of a Lady* (Miss Bessie Stillman), 1998

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Box 7, Folder 42 *Portrait of Raphael Welles Pumpelly*, circa 1997

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Box 7, Folder 44 *Portrait of a Woman* (Miss Gertrude Bloede), National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

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Box 7, Folder 47 *Red Flamingoes*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 48 *Roseate Spoonbill/Roseate Spoonbills*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

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Box 7, Folder 55	<i>Self-Portrait</i> , Charles M. Plunket, 1997
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Box 7, Folder 64	<i>Self-Portrait</i> (Drawing), Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997
Box 7, Folder 65	<i>The Sisters</i> , Brooklyn Museum, 1997-1999
Box 7, Folder 66	<i>The Sky Simulated by Red Flamingoes/White Flamingoes</i> , National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
Box 7, Folder 67	<i>Sleep</i> , 1997-1999
Box 7, Folder 68	<i>Sparrow Perched Among Clover and Daisies</i> , 2000
Box 7, Folder 69	<i>Sphinx Caterpillar</i> , National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
Box 7, Folder 70	<i>Spring Hillside</i> , Thomas Rosse, 1997-1999
Box 7, Folder 71	<i>Standing Woman</i> , National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
Box 7, Folder 72	<i>Stevenson Memorial</i> , National Museum of American Art, 1997-1999 (2 folders)

Box 7, Folder 74 *Still Life*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1997-1998

Box 7, Folder 75 *Still Life - Game*, 1999

Box 7, Folder 76 *Still Life with Bowl of Roses*, 1997

Box 7, Folder 77 *Study for Boy and Angel*, Dayton Art Institute, 1997

Box 7, Folder 78 *Study for Caritas*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1997

Box 7, Folder 79 *Study for Seated Angel*, Hirshhorn Museum, 1997

Box 7, Folder 80 *Study of Old Woman*, Brigham Young University, 1997-1998

Box 7, Folder 81 *Sunrise on Mt. Monadnock*, New Hampshire, Princeton University, 1997

Box 7, Folder 82 *Sunrise, San Remo*, Charles M. Plunket, 1997

Box 7, Folder 83 *The Three Graces*, circa 1998

Box 7, Folder 84 *Townsend Bradley Martin*, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 85 *Unidentified Portrait*, 1995

Box 7, Folder 86 *View of Dublin Pond, New Hampshire*, National Museum of American Art,
circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 87 *Village Street, Dominica*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 88 *The Virgin*, Freer Gallery of Art, circa 1995-1997

Box 7, Folder 89 *Virgin Enthroned*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
(2 folders)

Box 7, Folder 91 *Waterlilies*, Dicke Collection, 1997

Box 7, Folder 92 *West Indies*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 93 *White Flamingoes*, National Museum of American Art, circa 1997

Box 7, Folder 94 *William M. S. Stillman*, Brooklyn Museum, 1997

Box 7, Folder 95 *Winged Figure*, Art Institute of Chicago, 1997-2001

Box 7, Folder 96	<i>Winged Figure (Angel)</i> , Fogg Art Museum, circa 1997-1998
Box 8, Folder 1	<i>Winged Figure</i> , Freer Gallery of Art (1911), circa 1995-1997
Box 8, Folder 2	<i>Winged Figure</i> , Freer Gallery of Art (1918), circa 1995-1997
Box 8, Folder 3	<i>Winged Figure Seated Upon a Rock</i> , Freer Gallery of Art, 1995
Box 8, Folder 4	<i>Winter Dawn on Monadnock</i> , Freer Gallery of Art, 1995-1997
Box 8, Folder 5	<i>Winter, Monadnock</i> , National Museum of American Art, circa 1997
Box 8, Folder 6	<i>Winter Landscape</i> , National Academy of Design, 1997
Box 8, Folder 7	<i>Winter Scene</i> , Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1997-1998
Box 8, Folder 8	<i>Winter Sunrise, Monadnock</i> , Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997-1998
Box 8, Folder 9	<i>Winter Through the Window</i> , Addison Gallery, 1998
Box 8, Folder 10	<i>Woman in Grecian Gown</i> , Addison Gallery, 1997
Box 8, Folder 11	<i>Woman in Green Velvet</i> , Addison Gallery, circa 1997-1998
Box 8, Folder 12	<i>Woman in White Dress (Alma Wollerman)</i> , 1997
Box 8, Folder 13	<i>Young Girl</i> , Chesterwood, circa 1997
Box 8, Folder 14	<i>Young Woman</i> , Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997-2003
Box 8, Folder 15	<i>Young Woman in White</i> , Addison Gallery, 1998

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Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1961, circa 1990s-2001

(Box 8-9; 1.7 linear feet)

Found here are photographs of Thayer, his family, friends, studio, house, as well as photographs of his artwork. Also found are negatives, color transparencies, and slides of these photographs. Of note are photographs of a Thayer exhibition at the Lyman Allyn Museum and photographs of x-rays of Thayer paintings.

Researchers should note that all photographs of Thayer, his family, house, studio, and artwork are copy prints of original photographs which Richard Murray requested from the owners for his research. Most of the original photographs of Thayer and his family can be found in archival collections at the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Photographs are arranged by subject. Negatives and transparencies are also arranged by subject, but slides are arranged in no particular order.

Box 8, Folder 16-18	Photographs of Abbott Thayer, Family, Friends, circa 1990s <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 8, Folder 19	Photographs of Thayer Studio, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 20	Photographs of Thayer House, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 21-24	Photographs of New Hampshire Landscapes, circa 1990s <i>(4 folders)</i>
Box 8, Folder 25	Photographs of the J. L. Smith House, circa 2000
Box 8, Folder 26	Exhibition Photographs, Lyman Allyn Museum, 1961
Box 8, Folder 27	Photographs of Archival Documents, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 28	Photographs of Painting X-Rays, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder	Photographs of Artwork
Box 8, Folder 29-30	Drawings, circa 1990s <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 8, Folder 31-36	Ideal Figures, circa 1990s <i>(6 folders)</i>
Box 8, Folder 37-38	Landscapes, circa 1990s <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 8, Folder 39-41	Nature, circa 1990s

	<i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 9, Folder 1-3	Portraits, circa 1990s <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 9, Folder 4	Self-Portraits, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 5	At Addison Gallery, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 6	At Freer Gallery of Art, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 7	Comparisons (Artwork by Others), circa 2001
Box 9, Folder 8	Miscellaneous, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder	Negatives and Transparencies
Box 9, Folder 9	Abbott Thayer, Family, Friends, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 10	Archival Documents, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 11	Drawings, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 12-13	Ideal Figures, circa 1990s <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 9, Folder 14	Landscapes, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 15	Nature, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 16	Portraits, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 17	Self-Portraits, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 18	Miscellaneous, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 19-23	Slides, circa 1990s <i>(5 folders)</i>

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