



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Frank Harmon Myers Papers, 1891-1976, bulk 1908-1963, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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.

14 April 2023

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1891-1976	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1921-1973	5
Series 3: Printed Materials, 1924-1963	6
Series 4: Artwork, circa 1908-1956	7
Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1910-1962	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Frank Harmon Myers papers
Date:	1891-1976 (bulk 1908-1960)
Identifier:	AAA.myerfran
Creator:	Myers, Frank Harmon, 1899-1956
Extent:	2.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Frank Harmon Myers measure 2.2 linear feet and date from 1891 to 1976, with the bulk of the records dating from 1908 to 1963. The records shed light on the artist's career in Ohio and California through biographical materials, personal and professional correspondence, artwork, printed materials, and photographic materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Ella Price Myers, Myers' widow, from 1960 to 1974. An addition was donated in 1994 by Myers' daughter-in-law Patricia Clarke Myers, ex-wife of Myers' only son Frank P. Myers.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds one scrapbook of Frank Myers publicity, circa 1925-1945, lent for microfilming on reel D42. Loaned materials were returned to Ella Price Myers and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels D26-27, 840-841, and 3161 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Frank Harmon Myers papers, 1891-1976. 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

Frank Harmon Myers (1899-1956) was an impressionist painter and art educator who lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Pacific Grove, California. Myers was born in Cleves, Ohio, and moved to Cincinnati around 1907. His interest in art took off prior to his teenage years, illustrating a series of body-length portraits of Native Americans, several landscapes, and art with holiday themes. Myers studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati under Frank Duveneck, H. H. Wessel, and John Ellsworth Weiss; took a summer course at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts under Daniel Garber, Hugh Henry Breckenridge, and Joseph Thurman Pearson Jr.; and the School of Fine Arts at Fontainebleau, France, under Jean Despujols and Gourguet. Myers began showing his art at the Closson Galleries circa 1920 and taught at the Art Academy of Cincinnati from 1921 to circa 1941. In 1932, Myers spent a year on sabbatical in Sante Fe, New Mexico, painting animals, people, ranches and farms, villages, and landscapes. He and his wife, Ella Price Myers, moved to Pacific Grove, California, in 1940 so that Myers could pursue painting full-time. His work was frequently exhibited at the Carmel Art Association from this point onwards, with additional solo shows at Pebble Beach Galleries, San Jose State College, M. H. De Young Museum, Crocker Art Gallery, and others. Myers paintings were featured in group exhibitions at The Salon, Paris, Harlow Galleries, New York, St. Louis City Museum, Missouri, Alright Museum, New York, and more. Myers served as president of the Carmel Art Association in 1953.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Frank Harmon Myers measure 2.2 linear feet and date from 1891 to 1976, with the bulk of the records dating from 1908 to 1963. The records shed light on the artist's career in Ohio and California through biographical materials, personal and professional correspondence, artwork, printed materials, and photographic materials.

Biographical materials include Myers' resume, letters that confirm some of the courses he studied and taught, one membership list and meeting minutes of the Carmel Art Association, notes from a Myers art lecture on Sante Fe, one sales ledger, and drafts and notes of "And The Glory," a biography on Myers written by his wife, Ella Price Myers. Correspondence is a mixture of personal and professional letters, shedding light on Myers' friendships, personal and professional relationship with his wife, and his travels. Correspondents include artists Sheldon Dixie and Albert Berne, poet and advertiser John Bunker, Myers' nephew Sheldon, and his son Frank. The series also includes a map that of the United States on which Myers traced his sketching trips, 1926 to 1950, a cartoon by Herman Wessel, and clippings related to John Weis. Printed materials include newspaper and magazine clippings concerning Myers' artwork, career, and exhibitions, a series of advertisements illustrated by Myers, two lithographs of his artwork, and some exhibition ephemera. Artwork consists of childhood drawings by Myers of Native Americans, holiday themes, and portraits; later sketches, mostly in charcoal and pencil, include figure and portrait studies, city scenes, and several still lifes; one 1916 landscape painting by Myers, cloth with a linoleum block design, paint samples from

Myers' studio, and small sketches and doodles drawn on scraps of paper. Photographic materials depict Myers' artwork, portraits of the artist, his family and friends, and his home in Pacific Grove.

A fair amount of the collection's files include notes with contextual information written by Ella Price Myers.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1891-1976 (Box 1; .2 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1921-1973 (Box 1-2; 1 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Printed Materials, 1924-1963 (Box 2, OV 3; .5 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Artwork, circa 1908-1956 (Box 2, OV 4; .6 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Photographical Materials, 1910-1962 (Box 2; 4 folders)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Impressionism (Art) -- United States
Painting, American

Names:

Bunker, John
Myers, Ella Price

Occupations:

Educators -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
Landscape painters -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
Painters -- California -- Monterey
Painters -- Ohio -- Cincinnati

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1891-1976

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here is Myers' resume, letters from administrators and instructors certifying some of the courses Myers studied and taught, and other biographical information; one membership list and meeting minutes of the Carmel Art Association, written by Myers on index cards; notes from a lecture on Sante Fe given by Myers to the Cincinnati Art Museum; and a sales ledger for Myers' artwork, much of which was sold at Closson Galleries in Cincinnati. Also present are notes, drafts, and the manuscript for "And the Glory," a biography of Myers by Ella Price Myers, his mother's teaching certificate, landscape design plans for his home in Pacific Grove, and a list of Myers' students from the Pescadero Art Ranch.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Information; Courses Studied and Taught, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 2	Carmel Art Association, Member List and Minutes, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Landscape Design Plans. Monterey, California; J. W. Gregg, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Lecture on Sante Fe, Myers Notes, undated
Box 1, Folder 5-7	Manuscript, "And the Glory," by Ella Price Myers; Frank Myers Biography, circa 1960-1976
Box 1, Folder 8	Property Deed and Map, Loveland Park, Ohio, 1926
Box 1, Folder 9	Sales Ledger, 1923-1940
Box 1, Folder 10	Student List and Sketches, Pescadero Art Ranch, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Teaching Certificate, Louise Godley (Myers' Mother), 1891

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1921-1973

1 Linear foot (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters from friend, poet, and advertiser John Bunker concern Myers' career and personal life and include letters by Bunker's wife, Dorothy, and Ella Price Myers, as well as one transcript from a lecture by Bunker in which he references Frank and Ella. Frank Myers' correspondence with his wife, Ella Price Myers, covers a wide range of personal and professional topics, including biographical details, conversations about travel, family and friends, exhibitions, sale of artwork, shipping, and more. Other correspondents include Cincinnati artists Albert Berne and Dixie Sheldon. Ella Price Myers correspondence is mostly comprised of letters relating to her husband's biography and the posthumous exhibitions of his artwork, but also include a map that of the United States on which Myers traced his sketching trips, 1926-1950, a cartoon by Herman Wessel, and clippings related to John Weis.

Box 1, Folder 12	Letters from Albert Berne, 1943-1955
Box 1, Folder 13-14	Letters from John Bunker, 1938-1948
Box 1, Folder 15	Letter from Clara Dinckel Concerning Rockport Art Association Exhibition Catalog, 1946, 1952-1953
Box 1, Folder 16	Letter from Frederick Garber Concerning Law School Mural; Blueprint, 1930
Box 1, Folder 17	Illustrated Holiday Card from Charles Locke, undated
Box 1, Folder 18-22	Correspondence Between Frank and Ella Myers, 1922-1943, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Wedding Invitation, Frank and Ella Myers, 1925
Box 1, Folder 24-26	Letters from Frank Myers Jr. and Wife, 1946-1951
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Letters from Frank Myers Jr. and Wife, 1951-1955
Box 2, Folder 3	Letters from Sheldon Myers, 1946-1947, 1960
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Mixed Family Letters, 1921-1929
Box 2, Folder 6	Mixed Personal and Professional Correspondence, 1921-1956
Box 2, Folder 7	Ella Price Myers Correspondence, circa 1931-1973

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Printed Materials, 1924-1963

.5 Linear feet (Box 2, Ov 3)

Scope and Contents: Found here is printed material documenting Myers' personal and professional life. Files include newspaper and magazine clippings concerning Myers' artwork, career, and exhibitions; a series of advertisement illustrations he created for The Burkhardt Bros Co. circa 1929; two lithographs and a memorial he designed for Hideyo Noguchi; and exhibition ephemera from shows at The Chicago Galleries Association, Getz-Brown Gallery, Pebble Beach Art Gallery, Museum of New Mexico, The Triton Museum of Art, and the M. H. De Young Memorial Museum, and more. Also found in this series are programs, clippings, lists of song titles, and notes related to Myers' musicianship, and additional newspaper clippings about social events attended by Myers, fellow artists, family and friends, and other topics of interest.

Box 2, Folder 8	The Burkhardt Bros Co. Advertising Art by Frank Myers, Concepts by John Bunker, circa 1929
Box 2, Folder 9-11	Clippings on Myers, 1924-1963
Box 2, Folder 12	Exhibition Ephemera, 1936-1962
Box 2, Folder 13	Fredrix Canvas Tag from Myers' Studio, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Program, Design by Myers, 1928
Folder 3	Lithograph, Early Moonlight, 1952
Folder 3	Lithograph, Sea at Play, 1949
Box 2, Folder 15	19: Monterey Peninsula Art Gallery Guide, Frank H. Myers Gallery, 1960-1961
Box 2, Folder 16	Miscellaneous, Personal and Family Materials, 1952-1963

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Artwork, circa 1908-1956

.6 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: The artwork series includes drawings on loose sheets and sketchbooks—handmade and factory produced—with depictions of Native Americans, Christmas themes, and portraits. Later sketches, mostly in charcoal and pencil, consist of figure and portrait studies, city scenes, and several still lifes. Also found here is a landscape painting Myers gave to Ella Price in 1916, cloth with a linoleum block design that Myers experimented with, paint samples from the artist's studio, and small sketches and doodles drawn on scraps of paper.

Box 2, Folder 17-20	Childhood Drawings and Sketches, circa 1908-1910
Folder 4	Childhood Drawings and Sketches, circa 1908-1910
Box 2, Folder 21	Sketch of Mrs. Myers, circa 1923
Box 2, Folder 22	Handmade Sketchbooks, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Drawings and Sketches, circa 1925-1940
Folder 4	Drawings and Sketches, circa 1925-1940
Box 2, Folder 24	Sketches and Doodles, circa 1930s-1956
Box 2, Folder 25	Landscape Painting, 1916
Box 2, Folder 26	Linoleum Block Design on Cloth, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Paint Samples from Studio, undated
Folder 4	Paint Samples from Studio, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1910-1962

4 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found here are photos of Myers' artwork, photo portraits of the artist, pictures of his family and friends, and photos of the exterior and interior of his home in Pacific Grove.

Box 2, Folder 28 Artwork by Myers, undated

Box 2, Folder 29 Frank H. Myers, circa 1920-1930

Box 2, Folder 30 Myers Family and Personal Photos, 1910-1950

Box 2, Folder 31 Myers Home in Pacific Grove, California, circa 1945, 1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)