



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Ralf E. Nickelsen papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<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>	Ralf E. Nickelsen papers
<b>Date:</b>	1929-1993
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.nickralf
<b>Creator:</b>	Nickelsen, Ralf E. (Ralf Edgar), 1903-1990
<b>Extent:</b>	1.3 Linear feet 4 Items (rolled docs)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1991-1999 by Nickelsen's widow, Ingeborg R. Nickelsen.

### Other Finding Aids

Inventory of works of art located at Archives of American Art's Washington, D.C. office collection file.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Stained glass artist; mural painter; Boston, Mass. Born in Hamburg, Germany. Initially studied at the stained-glass studio of his father, John R. Nickelsen, and later went to the State Art School, Hamburg. He came to the United States in 1922 and attended the Art Students' League, N.Y. and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Participated as an artist and as a supervisor on the WPA Art Project in Boston, and was associated with the stained-glass design firm of Charles J. Connick Associates for many years.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical materials, correspondence, business records, writings, art works, photographs, and printed material.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical material includes ID cards and an autobiographical statement. Correspondence, 1935-1964, includes letters sent to Nickelsen as Supervisor for the WPA Massachusetts Federal Art Project;

correspondents include Beaumont Newhall and muralist Elizabeth Tracy. Project files regard mural and stained glass commissions, among them the East Boston murals; Nebraska capitol murals; Springfield, Mass. Museum of Fine Arts library murals; Worcester, Mass. Parcel Post Building murals; and stained glass commissions, ca.1938-1942. Files contain correspondence, art work, including large mural cartoons, reference photographs, photographs of works of art, and printed material. Also included are a list of mural ingredients and notes; business records, 1927-1937; photocopies of articles and writings, 1930-1967; art work by Nickelsen including stained glass rendering and mural drawings by Elizabeth Tracy Montminy; exhibition catalogs, clippings, photographs of Nickelsen and his art work, including one of him painting a window for St. Patricks Church, N.Y. in the Charles Connick Studio, Boston, 1950; and of Montminy and her murals.

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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' preparatory studies
- Glass painting and staining -- United States
- Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- Massachusetts
- Mural painting and decoration, American

### Types of Materials:

- Sketchbooks

### Names:

- Federal art project (Mass.)
- Montminy, Tracy, 1911-1992
- Newhall, Beaumont, 1908-1993
- United States. Works Progress Administration

### Occupations:

- Artisans
- Muralists -- Massachusetts
- Stained glass artists -- Massachusetts