



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Hideo Noda papers, circa 1910s-1998, in the Archives of American Art

Anna Rimel

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Hideo Noda papers
Date:	circa 1910s-1998
Identifier:	AAA.nodahide
Creator:	Noda, Hideo, 1908-1939
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet
Language:	English , Japanese .
Summary:	The Hideo Noda papers, circa 1910s-1998, measure 1.3 linear feet and document the life and work of muralist and painter Hideo Noda (1908-1939). The collection includes correspondence and illustrated letters between Noda, his wife Ruth, and others, scattered receipts and financial material, biographical and exhibition-related printed materials in Japanese and English, six photograph albums of family, travel, and artwork photographs, copies of original sketches and drawings by Noda and considered to be only remaining versions, Hideo Noda estate papers, and video and film recordings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2023 by Kathleen and Laurel Hulley, children of Hideo Noda's wife Ruth Noda.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Hideo Noda papers, circa 1910s-1998. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Hideo Noda (1908-1939), also known as Hideo Benjamin Noda and Benjamin Hideo Noda, was a Japanese American painter and muralist active in New York, New York; Tokyo, Japan; and San Francisco, California. Noda, born in Santa Clara, California, attended the California School of Fine Arts, and graduated in 1931. He then traveled to New York, where he was a member of the Mural Painters Guild and Woodstock Artists Association, studied with Arnold Blanch and Yasuo Kuniyoshi, and worked as an assistant to Diego Rivera. Around 1932 he married Ruth Kates, and between 1935 and 1939 he traveled with Ruth, and then alone, through Europe and Japan, where he became a member of the Shinseisakuha Art Society. In January 1939, Hideo Noda died of brain cancer and was buried in Kumamoto, Japan, where his parents lived prior to emigrating to America.

Scope and Contents

The Hideo Noda papers, circa 1910s-1998, measure 1.3 linear feet and document the life and work of muralist and painter Hideo Noda (1908-1939). The collection includes correspondence and illustrated letters between Ruth and Noda and others, scattered receipts and financial material, biographical and exhibition-related printed materials in Japanese and English, six photograph albums of family, travel, and artwork photographs, copies of original sketches and drawings by Noda and considered to be only remaining versions, Hideo Noda estate papers, and video and film recordings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-1956, 1977-1987 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1937-1938 (3 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Photographic Material, circa 1910s-circa 1950s (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1938-1940, 1968-1995 (0.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 5: Drawings and Sketches, circa 1930s, circa 1960s (0.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 6: Hideo Noda Estate Papers, 1939, 1978-1998 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 7: Film and Video Recordings, circa 1990s-1995 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
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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:

Asian American artists
Japanese American artists
Japanese American painters

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters

Occupations:

Muralists -- California -- San Francisco
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-1956, 1977-1987

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence primarily consists of letters between Hideo Noda and his wife Ruth, between 1937 and 1938, when Ruth was in New York City and Noda was in California, Chicago, and then in Europe and Japan. Letters from Noda are often illustrated with pen sketches, sometimes painted with watercolor or colored pencil, and topics range from their relationship and missing one another to Noda's artwork, projects, and exhibitions. Ruth traveled to Japan to be with Noda in 1938, returning by ship just prior to Noda's death in January 1939. Files also include letters from Ruth to sister Louise Kates in 1938 and 1979, largely during Ruth's travels to Europe and Japan. Additional letters are to Ruth from Seiichiro Kuboshima, in 1981 and 1982, who wrote numerous books about Hideo Noda and was interested in an exhibition on his work; artist Jack Yamasaki regarding Noda in 1977; family of Hideo Noda; and telegrams received by Ruth immediately following Hideo Noda's death in Japan. Postcards include some images of Hideo Noda's paintings, and some are in Japanese.

Box 1, Folder 1	Hotel and Travel Companies, 1938
Box 1, Folder 2	Arnold D. Kates, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 3	Louise Kates, 1938, 1979
Box 1, Folder 4	M.O. Katsuki, 1939
Box 1, Folder 5	Seiichiro Kuboshima, 1981-1982
Box 1, Folder 6	Y. Nakai, 1938
Box 1, Folder 7	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Nov. 26, 1934; Mar. 3-Mar. 13, 1937), 1934, 1937 Notes: Includes illustrated letters.
Box 1, Folder 8	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Mar. 17-Mar. 31, 1937), 1937 Notes: Includes illustrated letters.
Box 1, Folder 9	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Apr. 1-Apr. 19, 1937), 1937 Notes: Includes illustrated letters.
Box 1, Folder 10	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Apr. 26-June 16, 1937), 1937 Notes: Includes illustrated letters and black and white snapshot of Noda.
Box 1, Folder 11	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Sept. 29-Dec. 25, 1937), 1937 Notes: Includes black and white snapshots of Noda.
Box 1, Folder 12	Hideo and Ruth Noda (Jan. 20-Mar. 25, 1938), 1938 Notes: Includes illustrated letters.

Box 1, Folder 13	Hideo and Ruth Noda (undated), circa 1937-circa 1938
Box 1, Folder 14	The Ohamas, 1977
Box 1, Folder 15	Pele, 1978-1980
Box 1, Folder 16	Postcards, 1937-1944 Notes: Includes some postcards in Japanese.
Box 1, Folder 17	Maria Clara Quarenghi, 1987
Box 1, Folder 18	Telegrams (May 29, 1938-Jan. 11, 1939), 1938-1939 Notes: Includes notice of Noda's death.
Box 1, Folder 19	Toshiko Tomioka, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 20	Itsuko Uchida, 1939
Box 1, Folder 21	Kanji Uchida, circa 1938-1940 Notes: Includes black and white snapshot of Ruth and Hideo Noda, and group photograph with Hideo Noda.
Box 1, Folder 22	Masa Uchida, 1938-1939
Box 1, Folder 23	Max A. Walters, 1956
Box 1, Folder 24	Jack Yamasaki, 1977

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Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1937-1938

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Files include scattered receipts for travel and bank deposits, and a receipt for paintings delivered to East River Gallery in New York.

Box 1, Folder 25	Deposit Book and Receipts, 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 26	Lodging Receipts, Paris, 1938
Box 1, Folder 27	Receipt for Paintings, East River Gallery, 1937

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Series 3: Photographic Materials, circa 1910s-circa 1950s

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Photographs, negatives and six photograph albums depict Hideo Noda, Ruth Noda, family, and travel images in Japan. Most of the photographs were taken by Hideo Noda, and the photograph album of Hideo Noda's photographs and notes includes his handwritten notes and captions. Some childhood photographs of Noda are also included among the images.

Box 1, Folder 28	Photographs - Hideo Noda, Family, and Travels, circa 1910s-1938
Box 1, Folder 29	Photographs - Ruth Noda, 1946-circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 30	Photographs - New York and Japan, by Hideo Noda, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 31	Photographs - Hideo Noda's Artwork, 1932-1938
Box 1, Folder 32	Negatives - Hideo Noda, Family, and Travels, circa 1930s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photograph Album - Ruth and Hideo Noda and Family, circa 1917-1937
Box 2, Folder 2	Photograph Album - Ruth and Hideo Noda, Family, and Travels, 1917-1936
Box 2, Folder 3	Photograph Album - Ruth and Hideo Noda, Family, and Travels, circa 1920-1937
Box 2, Folder 4	Photograph Album - Hideo Noda's Photographs and Notes, 1934-1936
Box 1, Folder 33	Photograph Album - Ruth and Hideo Noda's Trip to Japan, 1938-1939
Box 1, Folder 34	Photograph Album - Hideo Noda's Artwork, 1934-1936

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1938-1940, 1968-1995

0.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials are primarily regarding Hideo Noda's life and work and include two books by Seiichiro Kuboshima on the artist, both in Japanese. Two posthumous exhibition catalogs with Noda's artwork are included, as well as a 1938 exhibition announcement for Nichido Art Gallery in Japan. A newspaper clipping of Noda's brief obituary is also found.

Box 2, Folder 5	Book, "Album Hideo Noda" by Shinseisaku-Ha, 1940
Box 1, Folder 35	Book, "Hideo Noda Sketchbook" by Seiichiro Kuboshima, 1985 Notes: In Japanese.
Box 1, Folder 36	Book, "The Life of Hideo Noda - Adrift" by Seiichiro Kuboshima, 1990 Notes: In Japanese.
Box 1, Folder 37	Exhibition Announcement, "H. Noda" (1938), Nichido Art Gallery, 1938
Box 1, Folder 38	Exhibition Catalog, "Face of Man," Gallery Hasegawa, 1995 Notes: One of Noda's paintings is included.
Box 1, Folder 39	Obituary Clipping, 1939
Box 1, Folder 40	Press Release, Nippon Television Network Corporation, 1995 Notes: Regarding show of Japanese American artists.
Box 1, Folder 41	Tamotzu Gallery Flyer, 1968

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Series 5: Drawings and Sketches, circa 1930s, circa 1960s

0.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Drawings and sketches are black and white photocopies of original circa 1930s artwork by Hideo Noda, which are considered to be the only surviving versions. One small original pastel rubbing of a face is also included.

Box 1, Folder 42 Etching and Copies of 1930s Sketches by Hideo Noda, circa 1930, circa 1960s
Notes: Considered to be only surviving versions.

Box 2, Folder 6 Copies of 1930s Sketches by Hideo Noda, circa 1960s
Notes: Considered to be the only surviving versions.

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Series 6: Hideo Noda Estate Papers, 1939, 1978-1998

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Files include American Consulate report of Hideo Noda's death, appraisal and inventory of Hideo Noda's artworks, scattered notes, and materials from Noda Memorial Museum of Art and Yamatane International Inc. concerning posthumous exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 43	American Consulate Report of Death of Hideo Noda, 1939, 1978
Box 1, Folder 44	Appraisal and Inventory of Hideo Noda Artworks, 1985
Box 1, Folder 45	Noda Memorial Museum of Art, 1987
Box 1, Folder 46	Notes, 1990-1998
Box 1, Folder 47	Yamatane International Inc., 1985-1996

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Series 7: Film and Video Recordings, circa 1990s-1995

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Files includes a video recording regarding Hideo Noda on Japanese television, as well as an unidentified video recording and film reel.

Box 1, Folder 48	Unidentified Film Reel, circa 1990s Includes 1 film reel.
Box 1, Folder 49	Video Recordings, "Hideo Noda" TV Kumakito and "Hideo", circa 1990s Includes 2 videocassettes (VHS).

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