



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Marjorie Nodelman Papers, 1950-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

2025/01/24

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marjorie Nodelman papers
Date:	1950-2016
Identifier:	AAA.nodemarj
Creator:	Nodelman, Marjorie, 1950-2014
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and social worker Marjorie Nodelman measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. Included are biographical material, school records, exhibition and project files, photographs, printed material, and sketches and drawings. Exhibition and project files are found for many of Nodelman's major exhibitions and commissions throughout California. Files may include original artworks and renderings, correspondence, printed material, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2018 by Robert Niedringhaus, Nodelman's widower.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2025 with received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Marjorie Nodelman papers, 1950-2016. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjorie Nodelman (1950-2014) was a painter in San Diego and Los Angeles, California. Born Marjorie Haines Frescoln in Pennsylvania, she attended the Hussian School of Contemporary art and the Philadelphia College of Art. She got an MFA from Yale University and married Sheldon Nodelman, a Yale professor and art historian. The Nodelmans moved to San Diego. In 1992, she married Robert Niedringhaus, a fellow artist. She exhibited her works around Los Angeles and San Diego, California. In the mid-1990s, Nodelman became a licensed clinical social worker and worked in prisons and schools.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and social worker Marjorie Nodelman measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. Included are biographical material, school records, exhibition and project files, photographs, printed material, and sketches and drawings. Exhibition and project files are found for many of Nodelman's major exhibitions and commissions throughout California. Files may include original artworks and renderings, correspondence, 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

Occupations:

Painters -- California

Social workers -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Marjorie Nodelman Papers, 1950-2016

1.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2, OV3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes a biographical sketch and resumes, birth certificates, writings about art theory, family and wedding photographs and school records. Also found are childhood mementos such as drawings, letters, and snapshots concerning Nodelman and her parents, Wilson Lyle Frescoln and Florence May Haines-Frescoln. School records for Nodelman's study at the Philadelphia College of Art, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and Yale University include awards and diplomas, correspondence, notes and writings, photographs and slides, and printed material. Also found are records for Nodelman's second career as a licensed clinical social worker in school and prison settings.

Marjorie Nodelman exhibited her works throughout California in solo and group shows and produced commissions for corporations and public works projects. Project and exhibition files may include correspondence, photographs of artwork and events, printed material, and sketches. Additional photographs depict Nodelman, with her artwork, in her studio and her homes, with friends and family. Photographs of works of art are of Nodelman's architectural designs, assemblages, furniture designs, hat boxes, portraits, and soft sculptures. A publisher's proof for a book on Nodelman's artwork is entitled *Hommage Aux Oeuvres D'Art de Marjorie Nodelman, Tome II*. Scattered printed material for other exhibitions is also found.

Sketches and unfinished artworks are in pencil, pen, and oil paint. Included are early novelty portraits of pets by Nodelman as a gift to her father, portraits, figure drawings, and abstract works.

Arrangement: The Marjorie Nodelman papers were organized in rough chronological order in three-ring binders by her husband, Robert Niedringhaus before donation. The binders were dismantled upon processing and some original order has been maintained however folder titles have been simplified for clarity.

Box 1, Folder 1-2 Biographical Material, 1950-2004

Box 2, Folder 3 Biographical Material, Oversized, 1950-2004

Box 1, Folder 3-4 Biographical Material, School Records and Social Work, circa 1970-2014

Box 1, Folder 5 Exhibition Files, Paintings of Marjorie Nodelman, The Floating Wall, 1977

Box 1, Folder 6 Exhibition Files, Military Industrial Complex, New Space Gallery, 1979

Box 1, Folder 7 Exhibition Files, Artist as Social Critic, Barnsdall Park, Municipal Art Gallery , 1979

Box 1, Folder 8 Exhibition Files, New Space in San Diego, San Diego State University, 1979

Box 1, Folder 9 Exhibition Files, Banquet Seminar, 433 G Street, San Diego, 1979

Box 1, Folder 10 Exhibition Files, Soldier of Fortune, New Space Gallery , 1980

Box 1, Folder 11	Exhibition Files, Pacific Collection, 1981
Box 1, Folder 12	Exhibition Files, Night Train, New Space Gallery , 1982
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Files, Night Train, New Space Gallery, Oversized, 1982
Box 1, Folder 13	Exhibition Files, More is More, Athenaeum, La Jolla, California, 1985
Box 1, Folder 14	Exhibition Files, Lyceum Theater, San Diego, California, 1986
Box 1, Folder 15	Exhibition Files, Three Artists, Grossmont College, 1987
Box 1, Folder 16	Exhibition Files, Neo-Cubist Paintings, Anuska Gallery, 1987
Box 1, Folder 17	Exhibition Files, Upholstered Vinyl Paintings, Boehm Gallery, 1988
Box 1, Folder 18-19	Exhibition Files, Marjorie Nodelman--San Diego Artist, Oceanside Museum of Art, 2016
Box 1, Folder 20	Project Files, Horton Plaza Wall Moral, 1982-1985
Box 1, Folder 21	Project Files, Artwalk Billboard , 1987
Box 1, Folder 22	Project Files, Three Windmills, Escondido California, 1989-1990
Box 1, Folder 23	Project Files, Stress/Forces in a Rotational Body, North Island Federal Credit Union, 1991
Box 1, Folder 24	Project Files, Wall Relief, MacMillan/McGraw-High School Division, New York City, New York, 1993
Box 2, Folder 5	Project Files, Hommage Aux Oeuvres D'Art de Marjorie Nodelman, Tome II, circa 2016
Box 1, Folder 25	Photographs, with Friends, circa 1980s-2004
Box 1, Folder 26	Photographs, of Home and Collections, circa 2004
Box 1, Folder 27	Photographs, of Studio, 1975-1988
Box 1, Folder 28-29	Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 1, Folder 30	Photographs, Slides, circa 1970-1990
Box 1, Folder 31	Printed Material, circa 1970-1990
Box 1, Folder 32	Sketches and Drawings, circa 1960-circa 2010

Box 2, Folder 1-2	Sketches and Drawings, Oversized, circa 1960-circa 2010
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Oversize 3	Sketches and Drawings, Oversized, circa 1960-circa 2010
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