



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Chiura Obata Papers, 1891-2000, bulk 1942-1945, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews and Rihoko Ueno

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by
the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation.

2019/01/07

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/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	4
Container Listing	5
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1894-1898, 1935-circa 1975.....	5
Series 2: Correspondence, 1925-1992.....	6
Series 3: Writings, 1924-circa 1964, circa 1986.....	10
Series 4: Professional Activities, 1913, 1924-1967.....	12
Series 5: Exhibition Files, 1925-1951.....	14
Series 6: Printed Material, 1901-circa 1906, 1925-2000.....	16
Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1891-1969.....	18
Series 8: Artwork, 1917-circa 1945.....	19
Series 9: Unprocessed Addition.....	20

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Chiura Obata papers
Date:	1891-2000 (bulk 1942-1945)
Identifier:	AAA.obatchiu
Creator:	Obata, Chiura
Extent:	3.6 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and Japanese.
Summary:	The papers of Japanese-American artist and educator Chiura Obata measure 3.6 linear feet and date from circa 1891 to 2000 with the bulk of the material dating from 1942 to 1945. The collection contains biographical material primarily related to Obata's family's forced relocation from Berkeley to Tanforan detention center and incarceration at the Topaz Relocation center; correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues; writings by Chiura Obata and others; material related to the art schools Obata established at Tanforan and Topaz; teaching files and professional activities; exhibition files; printed material, including <i>TREK</i> , and <i>Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment</i> ; photographic material; and sketches and sketchbooks. There is a 1.0 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2020 that includes correspondence, writings, subject files and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Chiura Obata papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2018 and 2020 by Kimi Kodani Hill and Mia Kodani Brill, Chiura Obata's grandchildren.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2019 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2019. The collection was fully processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a finding aid by Rihoko Ueno in 2019 with funding provided by the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Chiura Obata papers, circa 1891-2000. 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.

Terms of 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

Chiura Obata (1885-1975) was a Japanese-American artist and educator. Born Zoroku Sato in Okayama prefecture in Japan, Obata showed artistic talent early in life. He joined the artist group Nihon Bijutsuin (the Japan Art Institute) and apprenticed with Tanryo Murata. Obata also trained in Western and modern Japanese art.

In 1903 Obata immigrated to the United States. He worked as a commercial designer and as an illustrator for newspapers including the *New World* and the *Japanese American*, San Francisco's two Japanese newspapers. In 1921 he co-founded the East West Art Society in San Francisco. He had his first exhibition for American audiences in 1928 and began teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1932.

In April of 1942, as a result of Executive Order 9066, Chiura Obata and his family were forcibly relocated from Berkley to Tanforan detention center. By May he and fellow artists had established an art school with over 900 students. The school was successful and they were able to hold an exhibition outside of the camp in July. In September of 1942, the Obatas were moved to the Topaz War Relocation center, where Obata founded the Topaz Art School.

In the spring of 1943 in the wake of the controversy over loyalty oaths, Obata was attacked by another prisoner who considered him to be a spy. After recovering in Topaz's hospital, he was released for his own safety. He and his family moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where his son Gyo was attending architecture school.

In 1945 Obata was reinstated as an instructor at the University of California, Berkeley. He continued to exhibit his artwork and went on sketching and painting trips with the Sierra Club. In 1954 he became a naturalized citizen.

After his retirement from the University of California, Berkeley in 1953, Obata and his wife, Haruko, led tours to Japan to see Japanese gardens and art. He also gave lectures and demonstrations on Japanese brush painting and led tours through California. In 1965 Obata received the Order of the Sacred Treasure Emperor's Award for promoting good will and cultural understanding between the United States and Japan. Chiura Obata died in 1975 at the age of 90.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Japanese-American artist and educator Chiura Obata measure 3.6 linear feet and date from circa 1891 to 2000 with the bulk of the material dating from 1942 to 1945. The collection contains biographical material primarily related to Obata's family's forced relocation from Berkeley to Tanforan detention center and incarceration at the Topaz Relocation center; correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues; writings by Chiura Obata and others; material related to the art schools Obata established at Tanforan and Topaz; teaching files and professional activities; exhibition files; printed material, including *TREK*, and *Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment*; photographic material; and sketches and sketchbooks.

Biographical material includes Chiura Obata's school diplomas and resumes, as well as material related to his family's forced relocation and incarceration at Tanforan and Topaz, and eventual resettlement. There is a small amount of biographical material on others, such as records of memorial meetings held for Perham Nahl and material related to the forced relocation of Hiro Niwa.

The correspondence series consists of letters between Chiura Obata and family, friends, and colleagues, primarily while he was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz. Notable correspondents include John Boylin, Monroe Deutsch, Dorothy Parker, Miné Okubo, and Ruth Kingman. There are also letters of appreciation from students who attended the art schools established by Chiura Obata at Tanforan and Topaz.

Writings include diaries, lecture drafts, notes, and essays. Most of the writings are about art, but some are about Obata's experiences at Tanforan and Topaz. Also included in this series are translations of Obata's paintings and poems and writings by others on various subjects.

The professional activities series contains materials related to Obata's work as an artist and educator from his time teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, to the Tanforan and Topaz Art Schools he founded. Most of the series consists of teaching files, but there are other files on projects, commissions, inventory lists, and art donations.

Exhibition files include a range of materials related to group and solo exhibitions of Chiura Obata's paintings. There are exhibition lists, price lists, catalogs, photographs, correspondence, loan forms, clippings, printed material, and one guest register.

Printed material includes exhibition announcements, catalogs, magazines, newspapers, clippings and calendars. Noteworthy items include copies of *TREK*, which were published by the Japanese Americans incarcerated at Topaz; printed material related to Miné Okubo; and copies of *Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment*.

Photographic material includes an album from the Pan Pacific International Exposition and photographs of the Obata family's forced relocation from Berkeley, the Tanforan Art School, and their home in Webster Groves, Missouri, after they left the incarceration camps. There are also photographs used in the book *Topaz Moon* and photographs by the War Relocation Authority.

Artwork consists of a few watercolors, sketchbooks, and sketches, some of which were created during Obata's incarceration at Topaz. Other sketches were done for commercial work in St. Louis. There is an autograph book containing sketches and paintings by others.

Researchers should note that the term "evacuation" has been replaced in original folder titles with "forced relocation" for more accurate historical representation.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 9 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1894-1898, 1935-circa 1975 (Box 1, OV 4; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1925-1992 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1924-circa 1964, circa 1986 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 4: Professional Activities, 1913, 1924-1967 (Boxes 1-2, OV 4; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 5: Exhibition Files, 1925-1951 (Box 2, OV4; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1901-circa 1906, 1925-2000 (Box 2, OV 5; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1891-1969 (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 8: Artwork, 1917-circa 1945 (Box 3, OV 5; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 9: Unprocessed Addition (Box 6; 1.0 linear feet)

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 Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans

Types of Materials:

- Diaries
- Drawings
- Sketchbooks

Names:

- Central Utah Relocation Center
- Obata, Gyo, 1923-
- Okubo, Miné, 1912-2001
- Tanforan Assembly Center (San Bruno, Calif.)

Occupations:

- Artists -- California
- Educators
- Painters -- California -- Berkeley

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1894-1898, 1935-circa 1975

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are Chiura Obata's school diplomas and resumes, as well as material related to his family's forced relocation and eventual resettlement. Also included is material related to another prisoner's attack on him while incarcerated in Topaz in 1943. There is a small amount of biographical material on other people, such as documents related to memorial meetings held for Perham Nahl, a friend, artist and Berkeley art professor; and material related to the forced relocation of Hiro Niwa, a fellow Japanese American who was also incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz along with the Obata family during World War II.

Arrangement: A biographical sketch and chronology on Chiura Obata are at the beginning of the series; the rest of the material is in chronological order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages of notebooks and duplicates. A few publications have only had their covers and relevant pages digitized.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketch and Chronology Excerpt, circa 1947-circa 1975
Box OV 4, Folder 1	Zoroku Sato (Chiura Obata) School Diplomas, 1894-1898
Box 1, Folder 2	Memorial Meetings for Perham W. Nahl, 1935-1939
Box 1, Folder 3	Forced Relocation of Obata Family, Applications for Certificate of Identification, 1942
Box 1, Folder 4	Forced Relocation of Obata Family, Notebooks of Items Packed or Sold, 1942
Box 1, Folder 5	Forced Relocation of Hiro Niwa and Material from Tanforan and Topaz, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 6	Tanforan Camp Visitor's Slip, 1942
Box 1, Folder 7	Attack in Topaz and Hospitalization, 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 8	Resettlement from Topaz to St. Louis and Return to Berkeley, 1943-1945

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1925-1992

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents:	This series includes correspondence between Obata and family, friends, and colleagues, primarily while he was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz. Occasional letters addressed to his family members are also included. Notable correspondents include John Boylin, Dorothea Lange, Monroe Deutsch, Dorothy Parker, Miné Okubo, and Ruth Kingman. Much of the correspondence in this series is in Japanese, including letters of appreciation from students who attended the art schools established by Chiura Obata at Tanforan and Topaz. Some correspondence includes explanatory notes summarizing letter contents or providing context, written by either Kimi Kodani Hill or Mia Kodani Brill, Obata's grandchildren who donated the collection to the archives.
Arrangement:	Chiura Obata letter drafts to unidentified correspondents are at the beginning of the series. The rest of the correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Letters and comments from students and Christmas and greeting cards are housed at the end of the series.
Available Formats:	The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Box 1, Folder 9	Chiura Obata Letter Drafts to Unidentified Correspondents, circa 1942-circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 10	Adams, Ansel and Virginia, circa 1944
Box 1, Folder 11	Blake, Beth, 1935-1943, 1975 Notes: This file includes notes from an interview with Kim Kodani and Beth Blake, a transcript of Beth Blake's oral history, and a profile of Blake in the February 1939 <i>California Monthly</i> .
Box 1, Folder 12	Boylin, John "Jack", 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 13	Breed, Eleanor, 1942-1943 Notes: Includes a photocopy of typescript "Eleanor Breed Church Diary."
Box 1, Folder 14	Buckham, Margaret, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 15	B, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 16	C, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 17	Deutsch, Monroe E. (University of California, Berkeley), 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 18	Dungan, H. L., 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 19	D, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 20	Emery, Edwin, 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 21	Fisher, Galen M., 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 22	Frederick, Mrs. Clarence J., 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 23	F, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 24	G, Miscellaneous, 1942
Box 1, Folder 25	Haack, Arnold J., 1943
Box 1, Folder 26	Heinz, Doris Hale, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 27	H, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 28	Itow, Sashima, 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 29	I-J, Miscellaneous, 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 30	Kingman, Ruth, 1942-1944, 1986 Notes: Includes a transcript of Ruth King's oral history.
Box 1, Folder 31	K, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 32	Lange, Dorothea (Taylor), 1942
Box 1, Folder 33	Mission Board, 1939-1943
Box 1, Folder 34	M, Miscellaneous, 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 35	N, Miscellaneous, 1925-1943
Box 1, Folder 36	Obata, Gyo and Kimio, 1943
Box 1, Folder 37	Obata, Haruko (to Chiura Obata in St. Louis), 1943
Box 1, Folder 38	Obata, Kané, 1943
Box 1, Folder 39	Okubo, Miné, 1948-1954, 1975
Box 1, Folder 40	O, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 41	Parker, Dorothy, 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 42	P, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 43	Roosevelt, Eleanor and Correspondence About Painting Moonlight Over Topaz, Utah, 1942-1943, 1962, 1986-1992 Notes: Also includes clippings.

Box 1, Folder 44	Russell Sage Foundation, 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 45	R, Miscellaneous, 1927, 1942-1949
Box 1, Folder 46	Santa Fe School Students, 1938
Box 1, Folder 47	Schenkofsky, Henry D., 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 48	Simmons, Dorothy, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 49	S, Miscellaneous, 1941-1944
Box 1, Folder 50	Tanforan Wartime Civil Control Administration, 1942
Box 1, Folder 51	Topaz Art School, 1942-1943 Notes: Letters written by Chiura Obata on behalf of Topaz Art School to Topaz Center administration.
Box 1, Folder 52	Topaz War Relocation Authority, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 53	T, Miscellaneous, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 54	University of California, Berkeley, 1941-1950
Box 1, Folder 55	University of North Carolina, 1937-1938 Notes: Includes a list of paintings exhibited at the University of North Carolina, as well as a letter from Kalamazoo Institute of Art regarding the UNC exhibition.
Box 1, Folder 56	University of Redlands, 1941
Box 1, Folder 57	U, Miscellaneous, 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 58	Washington University, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 59	Weidman, Merle and Herald, 1942
Box 1, Folder 60	W-Y, Miscellaneous, 1942
Box 1, Folder 61	Unidentified Correspondent, circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 62	Letters and Comments from California Students, 1933-1934
Box 1, Folder 63	Letters of Appreciation from Tanforan and Topaz Art School Students, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 64	Christmas and Greeting Cards, A-H, circa 1943-circa 1944

Box 1, Folder 65

[Christmas and Greeting Cards, K-Y, and Unidentified Correspondents,
1943-1944](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, 1924-circa 1964, circa 1986

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains writings by Chiura Obata, including 3 diaries, mostly from his time at Topaz incarceration camp; handwritten and typescript drafts of lectures; notes; and essays. Most of the writings, especially the lectures, are about art, but there are some writings about his experience inside the incarceration camps. Some writings were probably delivered to classes, but it is not clear if they were lectures or essays. Also included in this series are writings by others on issues related to second generation Japanese Americans, as well as translations of the Japanese text accompanying Obata's paintings. Many of the writings are in Japanese.

Arrangement: The diaries are at the beginning of the series, followed by writings in alphabetical order by title. The remainder of the series is loosely arranged by type of writing such as lectures, notes, reports, and writings by others.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, and duplicates.

Box 1, Folder 66	Diary 1 from Topaz, circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 67	Diary 2 from Topaz, 1943
Box 1, Folder 68	Diary from Topaz and St. Louis Resettlement, circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 69	"Art and Individuality" Lecture Notes for University of California Student Exhibition, 1933
Box 1, Folder 70	"Boku-ga" and Explanations of Other Painting Techniques, circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 71	"Dots and Lines", circa 1933-circa 1935
Box 1, Folder 72	"Individuality and Painting", 1933
Box 1, Folder 73	"Japanese Architecture and Its Original Background", 1933
Box 1, Folder 74	"Kiin-Seido: The Fundamental Idea of Japanese Painting", circa 1933-1935
Box 1, Folder 75	"Lecture on Japanese Painting", circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 76	"Natural Rhythm and Its Harmony," Address at California School of Fine Art San Francisco Society of Women Artists, 1933
Box 1, Folder 77	"Nature of California As I See It", 1928
Box 1, Folder 78	"Self-Reflection in Art", 1935
Box 1, Folder 79	"Sumi (Ink-Stick) and the Oriental Arts" and "Bokushoku, Sumi Iro", 1935
Box 1, Folder 80	"Three Fundamental Strokes", circa 1930-circa 1950

Box 1, Folder 81	"The Three Great Essentials in Art Production", circa 1933-circa 1935
Box 1, Folder 82	"Two Methods of Gyotaku", 1956 Notes: Also includes correspondence.
Box 1, Folder 83	"Wood Block Prints", circa 1936
Box 1, Folder 84	"'Ye-fude' Japanese Painting Brushes", circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 85	Lecture Notes, 1933-1938
Box 1, Folder 86	Lecture Series on Perham W. Nahl and Ukiyoe Artists, 1936
Box 1, Folder 87	Lectures, Speeches, and Other Writings from Topaz, circa 1942-circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 88	Notes and Outlines for Materials and Pigments in Japanese Painting, circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 89	Notes, Lists, and License Related to Gyotaku (Fishing), 1924, 1945-circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 90	"Report to Mayor C. W. Culp", circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 91	Statement on Forced Relocation and Activities (Incomplete), circa 1945-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 92	Translation of Tanforan and Topaz Paintings and Poems, circa 1986 Notes: Translation from Japanese to Romaji and English. Romanji refers to the romanization of Japanese using Latin script. This file also includes some English translations.
Box 1, Folder 93	Writings About Topaz Relocation Center and School, circa 1942-circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 94	Writings by Others - Excerpt of Essay on Sumi by D. T. Suzuki, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 95	Writings by Others - Lectures on Japanese Art by Unknown, circa 1930-circa 1935 Notes: Lectures possibly by Perham Nahl.
Box 1, Folder 96	Writings by Others - Notes on Chiura Obata's Lectures by Beth Blake, 1934
Box 1, Folder 97	Writings by Others - Writings on the Nisei (2nd Generation Japanese Americans) by Various Authors, circa 1935-circa 1942

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Professional Activities, 1913, 1924-1967

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: The professional activities series contains materials related to Obata's work as an artist and art educator, including records from his time teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, to the Tanforan and Topaz Art Schools he established, and documents about other activities within the relocation centers. Most of the series consists of teaching files, but there are other files on projects and commissions such as his set design for *Madame Butterfly*, art inventory lists, and the donation of a painting to the Japanese American Citizens League.

Arrangement: This series is arranged in chronological order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box 1, Folder 98	Portola Festival - Union Square, 1913
Box 1, Folder 99	Certificate of Copyright Registration, Telephone Directory Covers, 1924
Box 1, Folder 100	Madame Butterfly Opera Set, 1924
Box 1, Folder 101	Chiura Obata School of Painting Course List, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 102	University of California Course Outlines, 1932-1936
Box 1, Folder 103	Yosemite Outdoor Sketching Course List of Materials, 1938
Box 1, Folder 104	Chiura Obata Art Inventory and Price Lists at Best's Studio, 1938-1941
Box 1, Folder 105	California Monthly Covers for California's Colorful Campuses, 1939-1940 (Painting Portfolio), 1939-1947
Box 1, Folder 106	Obata Studio Blank Letterhead and Invoice Forms, 1939-circa 1942
Box 1, Folder 107	Tanforan Art School - Clippings, 1942
Box OV 4, Folder 2	Tanforan Art School - Clippings, 1942
Box 1, Folder 108	Tanforan Art School - Exhibition List of Art by Students and Teachers, circa 1942 Notes: Work by students and teachers at Tanforan shown in traveling exhibition at Berkeley and Pasadena Art Institute
Box 1, Folder 109	Tanforan Art School - Letter of Intent to Establish Art School, 1942
Box 1, Folder 110	Tanforan Art School - Record Book, 1942
Box 1, Folder 111	Tanforan Art School - "Survey of Obata Art Project" and "Proposed Project", 1942

Box 2, Folder 1	Topaz Art School - "Adult Education Program Guide", 1943
Box 2, Folder 2	Topaz Art School - Art School and High School Commencement, circa 1943
Box OV 4, Folder 3	Topaz Art School - Clippings, 1942-1943
Box 2, Folder 3	Topaz Art School - "History and Development of Topaz Art School" by Matsusaburo Hibi, circa 1942
Box 2, Folder 4	Topaz Art School - Materials Related to Exhibits and Student Art, 1942-1943
Box 2, Folder 5	Topaz Art School - Student Roster for Sewing and Knitting Classes, circa 1943
Box 2, Folder 6	Lectures and Demonstrations in Salt Lake City, Utah, 1943
Box 2, Folder 7	University of California Course Outlines, 1946
Box 2, Folder 8	Donation of Glorious Struggle to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), 1965-1967

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Exhibition Files, 1925-1951

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: This series includes a range of materials related to group and solo exhibitions of Chiura Obata's work. There are exhibition lists, price lists, catalogs, photographs, correspondence, loan forms, clippings, printed material, and one guest register.

Arrangement: The exhibitions files are arranged in chronological order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box 2, Folder 9	Chiura Obata Exhibition in Los Angeles - Guest Register (1925), circa 1925
Box 2, Folder 10	Exhibition and Presentation of Painting - Pescadero Union High School (1928), 1928, 1978 Notes: Includes letters of appreciation and gratitude from students.
Box 2, Folder 11	Sendai Library Exhibition (1929), 1929
Box OV 4, Folder 4	Sendai Library Exhibition (1929), 1929
Box 2, Folder 12	Brush and Sumi Exhibition - Golden Gate Institute (1934 March-April), 1934
Box 2, Folder 13	Chiura Obata Exhibition - Tilly Polak, Inc. (1935), 1935
Box OV 4, Folder 5	Chiura Obata Exhibition - Tilly Pollak, Inc. (1935), 1935
Box 2, Folder 14	Chiura Obata Paintings Exhibition - University of California Art Gallery (1937), 1937
Box OV 4, Folder 6	Chiura Obata Paintings Exhibition - University of California Art Gallery (1937), 1937
Box 2, Folder 15	Chiura Obata Exhibition - Greensboro Federal Art Center (1937-1938), 1938
Box 2, Folder 16	Chiura Obata Paintings Exhibition - E.B. Crocker Art Gallery (1938), 1938
Box OV 4, Folder 7	Chiura Obata Paintings Exhibition - E.B. Crocker Art Gallery (1938), 1938
Box 2, Folder 17	Golden Gate International Exposition (1939), 1939-1940
Box 2, Folder 18	Chiura Obata Silk Paintings Exhibition - Santa Barbara State College (1941), 1941
Box 2, Folder 19	Relocation Center Art Exhibit - Friends Center (1943), 1943
Box 2, Folder 20	Veteran's Exhibition - University of California, Berkeley (1946), 1943, 1946

Box 2, Folder 21	Chiura Obata Exhibition - Raymond and Raymond Galleries (1946), 1946
Box 2, Folder 22	Chiura Obata Exhibition - University of Southern California (1946), 1946
Box 2, Folder 23	Chiura Obata Exhibitions - Maxwell's Gallery (1947), 1947-1956 Notes: Includes paintings inventory and list of artworks sold over the course of several years.
Box OV 4, Folder 8	Chiura Obata Exhibition - Maxwell's Gallery (1948), 1948
Box 2, Folder 24	Chiura Obata Painting Exhibition - Doll and Richards, Inc. (1950), 1950-1951

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Printed Material, 1901-circa 1906, 1925-2000

0.8 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements, catalogs, magazines, newspapers, and clippings, and calendars. Noteworthy items include copies of *TREK*, which were published by Japanese Americans incarcerated at Topaz; material from the War Relocation Authority; a copy of the 1948 *Sierra Club Base Camp*; printed material related to Miné Okubo; and copies of *Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment*.

Arrangement: For the most part, the contents of this series are arranged by publication type such as books, exhibition catalogs, magazines, newspapers clippings, etc. However, there are a few folders which are arranged by subject, which reflect the order in which they were arranged when donated to the archives.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box 2, Folder 25	Book - The Four Immigrants Manga: A Japanese Experience in San Francisco, 1904-1924 by Henry Kiyama, 1999
Box 2, Folder 26	Book - The Second Generation Problem: Some Suggestions Toward Its Solution by Roy Hidemichi Akagi, 1926
Box 2, Folder 27	Book - Sierra Club Base Camp, 1948
Box 2, Folder 28	Book - Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment, Edited with Text by Kimi Kodani Hill, 2000
Box 2, Folder 29	Book - University of California - In Memoriam, 1978 September
Box 2, Folder 30	Calendar With Reproductions of Chiura Obata Work, 1996
Box 2, Folder 31	University of California Engagement Calendar with Paintings by Chiura Obata, 1948
Box 2, Folder 32	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1930-1953
Box 2, Folder 33	Exhibition Catalogs, 1925-1933
Box 2, Folder 34	Exhibition Catalogs, 1933-1934
Box 2, Folder 35	Exhibition Catalogs, 1935
Box 2, Folder 36	Exhibition Catalogs, 1936-1942, 1952
Box 2, Folder 37	Magazines and Journals, 1934-1939
Box 2, Folder 38	Magazines and Journals, 1943-1948
Box 2, Folder 39	Magazines and Journals - California Monthly, 1938-1939, 1945

Box 2, Folder 40	Magazines and Journals - TREK, 1942-1943
Box OV 5, Folder 1	Newspaper Clippings, 1901-1903
Box 2, Folder 41	Newspaper Clippings, 1932-1940
Box 2, Folder 42	Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1945
Box OV 5, Folder 2	Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1945
Box 2, Folder 43	Newspaper Clippings, 1946-1987
Box OV 5, Folder 3	Newspaper Clippings, 1946-1987
Box 2, Folder 44	Printed Material on 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, circa 1906
Box 2, Folder 45	Printed Material on Charles Christian Nahl and Nahl Family, 1937
Box 2, Folder 46	Printed Material on Miné Okubo, 1972-1978
Box OV 5, Folder 4	Printed Material on Miné Okubo, 1965-1966
Box 2, Folder 47	Printed Material on Forced Relocation and War Relocation Authority Publications, 1934, 1942-1945 Notes: Includes a typed copy of <i>Americans in Concentration Camps</i> by Harry Paxton Howard from the September 1942 issue of <i>The Crisis</i> . Also included is <i>New Homes for the Issei</i> , 1945, a WRA publication, in Japanese.
Box 2, Folder 48	Printed Material on Forced Relocation and War Relocation Authority Publications, circa 1978-1995

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1891-1969

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents:	Included in this series are photographs for the book <i>Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of Internment</i> , photographs of the Obata family's forced relocation from Berkeley, photos from the War Relocation Authority, and photographs of their home in Webster Groves, Missouri. Also included are photos of works of art and a photograph album from the Pan Pacific International Exposition. There are only a few photographs of Chiura Obata scattered throughout the series.
Arrangement:	The photographs used in the book <i>Topaz Moon</i> are at the beginning of the series. The rest of the series is arranged alphabetically by subject.
Available Formats:	The bulk of this series has been digitized. Materials which have not been digitized include blank versos of photographs and duplicates.

Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs for the Book, Topaz Moon (2000), circa 1891-circa 1943 Notes: Includes photographs of Chiura Obata and family, photographs of Tanforan Art School and students taken by Dorothea Lange, and photographs of Obata's artwork.
Box 3, Folder 2	Before Singing, Portrait of Talia Savanieva (Thalia Sabanieva) by Chiura Obata, circa 1924
Box 3, Folder 3	Forced Relocation From Berkeley, 1942 Notes: Includes 2 photocopies of photographs of Chiura Obata and his wife Haruko.
Box 3, Folder 4	Gyosei Hall Exhibition, San Francisco, 1930 November
Box 3, Folder 5	Hawai'i and Fruit Industry, circa 1953
Box 3, Folder 6	Home in Webster Groves, Missouri, 1945
Box 3, Folder 7	Photograph Album of Pan Pacific International Exposition, 1915
Box 3, Folder 8	San Francisco After 1906 Earthquake, circa 1906
Box 3, Folder 9	S.S. Shinyo Maru Trip, 1928 November Notes: Includes steamship company booklet in Japanese.
Box 3, Folder 10	Uesugi Kenshin Portrait (1903) by Chiura Obata, 1969
Box 3, Folder 11	War Relocation Authority Photographs, circa 1944-circa 1945 Notes: Includes photographs of Chiura Obata and family, photographs of an exhibition of art by Japanese Americans during their incarceration, and photocopies of images held at the National Archives and associated catalog records.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Artwork, 1917-circa 1945

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 5)

Scope and Contents: This series contains sketches and two sketchbooks, some of which were created during Obata's incarceration at Topaz though they do not appear to be of the inside of Topaz Relocation Center. There are a few watercolor drawings based on a trip to Hawaii (see Hawaii images in photographic material series). Also included is an autograph book containing sketches and paintings by others and sketches Obata created for commercial work in St. Louis.

Arrangement: The material in this series is in alphabetical order by folder title.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized. Blank pages of sketchbooks have not been digitized.

Box 3, Folder 12	Autograph Book With Sketches and Notes From Others, 1917-1927
Box 3, Folder 13	Hawaii Watercolor Drawings, circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 14	Modern Dance Sketches, circa 1933-1934
Box 3, Folder 15	Sketch on Verso of Letter Draft to Dorothy Swaine Thomas, circa 1943
Box 3, Folder 16	Sketchbook, 1943
Box 3, Folder 17	Sketchbook, 1943-1944
Box 3, Folder 18	Sketches Created While in Topaz, 1942-circa 1943 Notes: Does not appear to consist of sketches of Topaz Relocation Center.
Box 3, Folder 19	Sketches for Commercial Work in St. Louis, circa 1945
Box OV 5, Folder 5	Sketches for Commercial Work in St. Louis, circa 1945

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Unprocessed Addition

1 Linear foot

Box 6

Unprocessed Papers

[Return to Table of Contents](#)