



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bashka Paeff Papers, 1920-1981, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bashka Paeff papers
Date:	1920-1981
Identifier:	AAA.paefbash
Creator:	Paeff, Bashka, 1894-1979
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of sculptor Bashka Paeff measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1981. The small collection documents her work as an artist in Boston, Massachusetts, through biographical material, two diaries, printed material, and photographs of Bashka Paeff and her artwork. Also found are an autograph book containing signatures and notes from MacDowell Colony members, one clippings scrapbook, and four photograph albums, including one from a trip to Europe in the 1920s.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2012 by Don Richard Lipsitt, Bashka Paeff's nephew.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2014. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged.

Preferred Citation

Bashka Paeff papers, 1920-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

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Biographical / Historical

Bashka Paeff (1894-1979) was a sculptor in Boston, Massachusetts. Paeff was born in Minsk, Russia and moved to Boston with her parents when she was a year old. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, with Bela Pratt in 1914. Later she worked at the McDowell Colony and married Boston University professor Samuel M. Waxman. Paeff was known for realistic animal sculptures as well as war memorials, fountains, and portraits. Notable works include the Boy and Bird statue in the Boston Public Gardens, the Lexington Minute Men Memorial, and a statue of President Harding's pet terrier, Laddie Boy, which was cast from pennies collected by newsboys and became part of the Smithsonian Institution collection.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor Bashka Paeff measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1981. The small collection documents her work as an artist in Boston, Massachusetts, through biographical material, two diaries, printed material, and photographs of Bashka Paeff and her artwork. Also found are an autograph book containing signatures and notes from MacDowell Colony members, one clippings scrapbook, and four photograph albums, including one from a trip to Europe in the 1920s.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material 1922-1981 (0.2 linear feet; Boxes 1, 3)
- Series 2: Diaries, 1924-1925 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1920-1979 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Photographs, circa 1920s-1977 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Autograph albums
Diaries
Photograph albums
Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names:

MacDowell Colony

Occupations:

Sculptors -- Massachusetts -- Boston

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1922-1981

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 3)

Scope and Contents: Found here are scattered personal papers belonging to Bashka Paeff. Included are a few cards and letters from friends; two letters regarding Paeff sent to her nephew, Donald Lipsitt; copies of Paeff's income and expense lists for much of the 1930s; and a file of press material and photographs regarding the restoration of her sculpture "Boy and Bird." Also of note is an autograph book containing signatures, notes, and poetry from friends, including other artist members of the MacDowell Colony.

Box 1, Folder 1	Affidavit of Citizenship, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Autograph Book, 1922-1938
Box 1, Folder 3	Cards and Letters to Bashka Paeff, 1965, circa 1924-1954
Box 1, Folder 4	Donald Lipsitt Correspondence Regarding Bashka Paeff, 1981
Box 1, Folder 5	Income and Expense Lists, 1934-1939
Box 1, Folder 6	Restoration of "Boy and Bird" Fountain, circa 1974-1977
Box 3, Folder 2	Award Certificate, 1976

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Series 2: Diaries, 1924-1925

2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here are two diaries belonging to Bashka Paeff. The diaries contain brief entries about studio work, social activities, and events in the news. The diary from 1924 only contains a few entries.

Box 1, Folder 7 Diary, 1924

Box 1, Folder 8 Diary, 1925

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1920-1979

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes news clippings about Paeff and other artists, pamphlets on the MacDowell colony, one exhibition catalog, and two invitations to sculpture unveilings. Also found is printed material about one of her portrait sitters Roland Hayes and a clippings scrapbook regarding her professional work in 1921.

Box 1, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1920-1959
Box 1, Folder 10-11	News Clippings, 1922-1979
Box 1, Folder 12	News Clippings Regarding Lexington Memorial, 1949
Box 1, Folder 13	Printed Material Regarding Roland Hayes, 1954-1967
Box 1, Folder 14	Scrapbook of Clippings, 1921

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Series 4: Photographs, circa 1920s-1977

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Photographs depict Bashka Paeff in her studio and at sculpture unveilings. Also found are numerous photographs and photograph albums of her artwork, including portrait busts of men, women, and children, sculptures of animals, and public fountains and memorials. Also found are a few photographs of exhibitions of her work, her home and studio, and portraits sitters including Roland Hayes and Marian MacDowell. One photograph album includes photographs of Paeff traveling abroad with friend Juan M. Munoz.

Box 1, Folder 15-16	Photographs of Bashka Paeff, circa 1920s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs of Home and Studio, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs of Exhibitions, 1952-1974
Box 1, Folder 19	Photographs of Roland Hayes, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs of Other People, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 21	Photographs of Artwork, Animals, circa 1930s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Photographs of Artwork, Children, circa 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 24-25	Photographs of Artwork, Men, circa 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 26-27	Photographs of Artwork, Various Subjects, circa 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 28-29	Photographs of Artwork, Women, 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 30	Negatives of Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 31	Photograph Album, Trip to Europe, 1920s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photograph Album, Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 2	Photograph Album, Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 1	Photograph Album, Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 3-4	Loose Photograph Album Pages, circa 1920s-1940s

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