



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Arthur Painter Papers of the Federal Art Project, 1938-1941, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/02/21

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Arthur Painter papers of the Federal Art Project
<b>Date:</b>	1938-1941
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.painarth
<b>Creator:</b>	Painter, Arthur
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Microfilm reel
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of arts administrator Arthur Painter date from 1938 to 1941. Material relates to Painter's role as the Director of Information for the Federal Art Project in San Francisco, California. Found are general publicity files which include correspondence, lists, photographs, printed materials, reports, and worksheets detailing fund allocations from various projects administered by the Federal Art Project. Of note is material on National Art Week in 1941 and the publicity relating to the dedication of murals at Fleishacker Mother's House at the San Francisco Zoo.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The materials microfilmed are from the files of Arthur Painter, but were loaned to AAA through Lewis Ferbrache who was a collector for AAA's "New Deal and the Arts" project. The papers were returned to Lewis Ferbrache after filming.

### Location of Originals

Originals returned to Lewis Ferbrache after microfilming.

### Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reel NDA16. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

### Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel NDA16 and was returned to Lewis Ferbrache after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

### Preferred Citation

Arthur Painter papers of the Federal Art Project, 1938-1941. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Arthur C. Painter (1911-1980) was the Director of Information, Federal Art Project for Northern California.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of arts administrator Arthur Painter date from 1938 to 1941. Material relates to Painter's role as the Director of Information for the Federal Art Project in San Francisco, California. Found are general publicity files which include correspondence, lists, photographs, printed materials, reports, and worksheets detailing fund allocations from various projects administered by the Federal Art Project. Of note is material on National Art Week in 1941 and the publicity relating to the dedication of murals at Fleishacker Mother's House at the San Francisco Zoo.

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## Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Federal Art Project (Calif.)  
Federal Art Project. National Art Week

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- California

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Arthur Painter Papers, 1938-1941

**Scope and Contents:** Arthur Painter's papers from his service as Director of Information for the Federal Art Project in San Francisco, California include records relating to the publicity of projects. Found are general publicity files which include correspondence, lists, loan requests, photographs, printed materials, prospectus and status reports, and worksheets detailing fund allocations. Allocation worksheets include the title, location, artist, date, and amount of funds allocated for projects. Publicity lists contain the address and contact information for newspapers throughout Northern California.

Correspondence, photographs, and lists relate to the opening of the Fleishacker Mother's House at the San Francisco Zoo which featured a mural on Noah's Ark by Dorothy Puccinelli and Helen Forbes. Under Painter, pigeons were used to carry messages to other cities to publicize the opening. Material relating to National Art Week include photographs of exhibition openings, many of which are labeled.

Reel NDA16.painter, [on Fleishacker Mother's House, 1938](#)  
Frame 37-65

Reel NDA16.painter, [General Director of Information Records, 1938-1941](#)  
Frame 66-171

Reel NDA16.painter, [on National Art Week, 1941](#)  
Frame 172-289

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