



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dorothy Paris Papers, 1917-1979, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2025/01/28

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Dorothy Paris papers
Date:	1917-1979
Identifier:	AAA.paridoro
Creator:	Paris, Dorothy, b. 1899
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter, gallerist, and arts activist Dorothy Paris measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1917 to 1979. The papers focus on Paris's career as a painter and include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and scattered writings and notes. Also found are administrative records, correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports of the International Association of the Plastic Arts/International Art Association (IAPA) and scattered printed materials produced by the 8th Street Gallery.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Dorothy Paris donated her papers in several installments between 1970 and 1980.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Thomas Casilear Cole papers, 1750-1976. Portions of the collection were donated by Dorothy Paris to the Archives of American Art due to her role as executor of Cole's estate.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection have been microfilmed on 35mm microfilm reels D176 & 294 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

Portions of the collection were arranged upon receipt and microfilmed. The collection was merged, processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2025 with received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Dorothy Paris papers, 1917-1979. 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. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Dorothy Paris (1899-1996) was a painter and gallerist in New York City, New York. Studying at the Art Students League and in Paris, she founded the 8th Street Gallery in Manhattan in the 1930s. There, she formed many lifelong relationships and friendships with artists. After serving as a volunteer nurse in World War II, she attended art school and became a painter. Her first show was at Galerie Zak in Paris in 1950 and she continued to exhibit her works around the United States. Additionally, Also, Paris was an activist and involved in the U.S. Committee of the International Association of the Plastic Arts/International Art Association (IAPA)--now UNESCO partner groups.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, gallerist, and arts activist Dorothy Paris measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1917 to 1979. The papers focus on Paris's career as a painter and include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and scattered writings and notes. Also found are administrative records, correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports of the International Association of the Plastic Arts/International Art Association (IAPA) and scattered printed materials produced by the 8th Street Gallery.

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:

Artists' studios -- Photographs
Women artists

Names:

Hasegawa, Saburō, 1906-1957
UNESCO

Weston, Harold, 1894-1972

Occupations:

Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Dorothy Paris Papers, 1917-1979

1.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2, OV3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical records include awards, biographical sketches written by others, one drawing and a lithograph of an exhibition flyer by Paris, and resumes. Correspondence is both personal and professional and includes letters from Paris's children and grandchildren, her sister Robel, her husband W. E. Brock; as well as artist friends and colleagues Mary Ascher, Nathaniel Dirk, Sabro Hasegawa, Ann Mittleman, Elias Newman, Helen Treadwell, and Harold and Faith Weston.

Administrative records, drafts of form letters and other correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports are found for International Association of the Plastic Arts/International Art Association (IAPA), for which Paris served as public relations officer and as a United States Delegate for a UNESCO conference. Organizational correspondence is between officers, members, and organizations such as the American Society of Contemporary Artists and the National Association of Women Artists.

Photographs include portraits of Dorothy Paris, in her studio and with her artwork, with family, friends, and of her travels as a delegate for the IAPA Unesco conference. Of note is a photo of Sabro Hasegawa outside his studio in Japan and of Paris with Nobuya Abe. Also found are photographs of other artists including Ann Bagley, Otto Botto, Harld and Faith Weston, and John Von Wicht. Photographs of works of art are of Paris's paintings. Photographs of works of art by others include Fritzi Abadi, David Atkins, Maurice Becker, Otto Botto, Ruth Gutman, Victor Salvatore, Beulah Stevenson, and Harold Weston.

Printed materials focus on the exhibition of Paris's paintings and include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releaseses. Also found are scattered catalogs from the 8th Street Gallery and material concerning other artists.

Scattered writings by Paris include a narrative of her visit to Hiroshima in the mid-1950s, poems, and notes.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1942-1963
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, with Family, 1950-1970
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, with Faith and Harold Weston, 1934-1970
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, Personal, 1940-1978
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Professional, 1940-1970
Box 1, Folder 8-13	Organizational Records, International Association of Arts, 1952-1979
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs, of Dorothy Paris and Others, 1917-circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Photographs, of Works of Art by Dorothy Paris, circa 1940-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs, of Works of Art by Others, circa 1940-circa 1970

Box 1, Folder 18	Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1935-1979
Box 2, Folder 1	Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1935-1979
Box 2, Folder 2-5	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1939-1974
Oversize 3	Printed Material, Poster, Oversized, 1950
Box 2, Folder 6	Printed Material, Press Releases, 1953-1977
Box 2, Folder 7	Printed Material, on Other Artists, circa 1940-circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 8	Writings and Notes, circa 1940-circa 1970

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