



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Eve Peri Papers, circa 1900-1996, bulk 1939-1966, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Eve Peri papers |
| Date: | circa 1900-1996, bulk 1939-1966 |
| Identifier: | AAA.perieve |
| Creator: | Peri, Eve, 1897-1966 |
| Extent: | 0.6 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of painter and embroiderer artist Eve Peri measure 0.6 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1996 with the bulk of materials dating from 1939 to 1966. The papers are scattered and include biographical materials, travel documents, correspondence, financial records, printed material, designs for embroidered clothing, and photographs. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Eve Peri papers were donated by Elizabeth Bullock and Judith Stein, executor and curator of the estate in 2001.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Eve Peri papers, circa 1900-1996, bulk 1939-1966. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Eve Peri (1897-1966) was a collagist, embroiderer, and painter active in New York City, New York.

Eve Peri was born in Bangor, Maine in 1897. From her mother and aunts, Peri learned traditional quilting and embroidery techniques. A largely self-trained artist, she used her skills to design clothing, tapestry, and collages and also painted. She collaborated with her husband Alfonso Umana Mendez, a designer for Fred Leighton, designing women's embroidered clothing. After divorcing in 1939, she traveled around Europe and began to exhibit her works.

Peri moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania late in life and opened a gallery in New Hope to show her works. She died in 1966.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and embroiderer Eve Peri measure 0.6 linear feet and date from circa 1900 to 1996 with the bulk of materials dating from 1939 to 1966. The papers are scattered and include biographical materials, travel documents, correspondence, financial records, printed material, designs for embroidered clothing, and photographs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Eve Peri papers, circa 1900-1996 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1, OV2-3)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Fiberwork
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Occupations:

Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York
Embroiderers -- New York (State) -- New York
Fiber artists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Eve Peri Papers, circa 1900-1996, bulk 1939-1966

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2-3)

Scope and Contents: The Eve Peri papers are scattered and consist of biographical material, correspondence, personal business records, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

Included are address books; a certificate; a clipping on John F. True, likely Peri's grandfather; estate records; calling cards and travel papers; copies of birth and divorce records; receipts, many from a trip to Rome in 1964; printed materials regarding Peri's art and general art; fragments of a mixed media scrapbook; and printed and original designs for clothing and embroidery.

Correspondence includes letters from friends and institutions. Signed letters are from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Flair Magazine, J.M. Joubert, and John Rothchild. Other letters are illegible, unsigned or with first names only. Letters from 1964 congratulate Peri on an exhibit of her works in Rome, Italy. Also found is an unsent letter from Peri to Wanda Nordstrom. Many of the clippings include designs of women's embroidered clothing designed by Peri. Photographs are of Peri, in her studio and working on her works of art; of friends and family; homes and buildings; travel; and of works of art.

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| Box 1, Folder 1 | Address Book and Addresses, circa 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Certificate, American Institute of Design, 1951 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Clipping, on John F. True, circa 1900 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Estate Records, circa 1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Identification and Calling Cards, circa 1950-1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Travel Papers and Passports, 1939-1960s |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Vital Records and Obituaries, circa 1960s |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Correspondence, circa 1900-circa 1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Correspondence, Others, 1903 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Financial Records, 1960s |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Travel Receipts, 1961-1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Bulletins and Press Releases, 1948-1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Clippings, 1947-1960s |

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| Box 1, Folder 14 | Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1948-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Magazines, 1950-1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Scrapbook Fragments, circa 1940-1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Designs for Clothing and Embroidery, Printed, circa 1940 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Designs for Embroidery, Original, circa 1940 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Photographs, Eve Peri, circa 1920s-1960s |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Photographs, Friends and Family, circa 1940s-1960s |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Photographs, Homes, circa 1910-circa 1950 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Photographs, Travel, circa 1920-circa 1940 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Photographs, Works of Art and Exhibitions, 1942-1963 |
| Oversize 2 | Oversized Photographs, circa 1940s-1960s |
| Oversize 3 | Oversized Printed Material, circa 1920s-1960s |

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