



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Jane Peterson Papers, 1907-1981, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Jane Peterson papers
<b>Date:</b>	1907-1981
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.petejane
<b>Creator:</b>	Peterson, Jane, 1876-1965
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter Jane Peterson measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1907 to 1981. The collection includes sketches, biographical materials, scattered correspondence, printed material, fragments of two scrapbooks, and writings and notes.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were collected by the donor, J. Jonathan Joseph, in the course of research on Peterson. He donated the papers to the Archives of American Art in 1982.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Jane Peterson papers, 1907-1981. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jane Peterson (1876-1965) was a painter active in Chicago, New York, and New England who worked in an Impressionist and Expressionist style. She studied at the Pratt Institute and privately with Frank Brangwyn and G. Sorolla, and had a close friendship with Louis Comfort Tiffany. Peterson traveled widely, and participated in multiple exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad.

## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Jane Peterson measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1907 to 1981. The collection includes sketches, biographical materials, scattered correspondence, printed material, fragments of two scrapbooks, and writings and notes.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are 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:

Subjects:

- Scrapbooks
- Women artists
- Women painters

Occupations:

- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Jane Peterson Papers, 1907-1981

#### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Artworks consist of sketches of flowers and accompanying notes, likely for Peterson's *Flower Painting*. Biographical materials include copies of Peterson's will, autobiographical sketches, and a poem to Peterson by Hazel King Tillman. Letters are scattered and include a letter in Spanish by Joaquín Sorolla, 3 letters to Peterson concerning the exhibition of her work, and an announcement for her 1939 wedding to James S. McCarthy. Photographs depict Peterson, her family and homes, Peterson painting in her studio, her garden, and on the beach, and also include views of docked sailboats and the Canadian Rockies. Printed materials include two books, *Flower Painting*, by Jane Peterson and *Jane Peterson: an American Artist*, by J. Jonathan Joseph. Two mixed-media scrapbook fragments contain biographical material, letters, and printed material. In thirteen brief essays, Peterson discusses her travels, and her opinions of other artists. Also found are two essays about F. Hopkinson Smith.

Box 1, Folder 1                  Artwork, circa 1945

Box 1, Folder 2                  [Biographical Material, 1938-1966](#)

Box 1, Folder 3                  [Correspondence, 1909-1959](#)

Box 1, Folder 4                  Photographs, circa 1900-1950

Oversize 2                          Photographs, Oversized, circa 1900-1950

Box 1, Folder 5-6                  Printed Material, 1909-1981

Box 1, Folder 7                  Scrapbooks, Fragments, 1907-1927

Box 1, Folder 8                  [Writings and Notes, 1917-1951](#)

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