



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Peter Pollack papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Peter Pollack papers
Date:	1939-1979
Identifier:	AAA.pollpete
Creator:	Pollack, Peter, 1909-1978
Extent:	6.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels 822 and 4886-4887 donated 1974-1977 by Pollack, except for the scrapbook which was donated by Jane de Hart, an art historian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who received it from Pollack for her research on African American artists and WPA projects. Material on reels 2385-2390 was lent for microfilming in 1981 by Creilly Pollack, Pollack's widow.

Location of Originals

Reels 2385-2390: Originals returned to Creilly Pollack after microfilming.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm reels 2385-2390: Finding aid available at Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 822, 2385-2390, and 4886-4887 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Peter Pollack (1909-1978) was a photographer, curator, historian, and writer in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; photographs; writings and lecture notes; and printed material; and a scrapbook.

Scope and Contents

Circa 300 personal letters, 1945-1970, to Pollack from painter Richard Florsheim.

Scope and Contents

Files of correspondence and clippings pertaining to Pollack's career as a curator and photography historian. Most of the files concern Pollack's book "The Picture History of Photography." Other files concern Pollack's work on publications for Harry N. Abrams, Inc., the Worcester Art Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. Also included are writings and lecture notes; a few letters and clippings from scrapbooks; and miscellany. Correspondents include: Ansel Adams, Gyula Halasz Brassai, Sylvan Cole, Julio De Diego, Helmut Gernsheim, Philippe Halsman, Dimitrios Harissiadis, Yousuf Karsh, Grace M. Mayer, and Beaumont Newhall.

Scope and Contents

Personal correspondence, 1954-1976, with Richard Florsheim discussing various career choices and projects, exhibition openings, Florsheim's art dealers, and book projects Florsheim was involved in; project files, 1948-1962, regarding Pollack's position as the New York City-based Public Relations Consultant for the Archives of American Art, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Guggenheim, and other institutions. Included are letters, news releases, catalogs, announcements and some photographs and clippings of such projects as the International Biennial of Prints and the AAA European art tour trip.

Scope and Contents

Also included is a scrapbook, 1939-1943, concerning exhibitions and activities of the South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, sponsored by the Illinois Art Project of the WPA-FAP and supervised by Pollack, 1938-1942. The center's purpose was to advance African American art and artists. Included are by-laws; letters from Alain Locke, and Richmond Barthe; photographs of Pollack, Jules Carlen, Horace Pippin, Eldzier Cortor, Canada Lee, Julio de Diego, Jesus Torres, and Eleanor Roosevelt at the dedication of the center, 1941; a typescript of a lecture by Daniel Catton Rich "The Art Museum and the Community Art Center," delivered at the Museum Director's conference, Detroit Institute of Arts, May 1940, newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs and other printed material.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

African American artists
Photography

Names:

Abrams, Harry N.
Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984
Brassai, 1899-

Cole, Sylvan
Davis, Charles H. (Charles Harold), 1856-1933
De Diego, Julio, 1900-
Federal Art Project (Ill.)
Florsheim, Richard A., 1916-1979
Gernsheim, Helmut, 1913-
Halsman, Philippe
Harissiadis, Dimitrios
Karsh , Yousuf, 1908-2002
Mayer, Grace M.
Newhall, Beaumont, 1908-1993
South Side Community Art Center
United States. Works Progress Administration

Occupations:

Museum curators
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Art centers -- Illinois