



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Anne Eisner Putnam papers, 1936-1968, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Anne Eisner Putnam papers
Date:	1936-1968
Identifier:	AAA.putnanne
Creator:	Putnam, Anne Eisner
Extent:	40 Items
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of painter Anne Eisner Putnam consist of 40 items and date from 1936 to 1968. Found is an application for <i>Who's Who of American Women</i> , and two letters concerning her book and artwork. Printed material includes clippings (1936-1965) about exhibitions of her artwork in New York, her experiences in Africa, press releases, and her obituary. Photographs are of Putnam's paintings; of Putnam at "Camp Putnam" in the Ituri Rainforest in the Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) with members of one of the Congo Pygmy tribes; a snapshot of Putnam; and a portrait of Patrick Tracy Lowell Putnam.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

William J. Eisner, the father of Anne Eisner, donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1970.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reel N70-10 including correspondence, clippings, photographs and sketchbooks primarily relating to her life in the Belgian Congo among Pygmies with her husband, anthropologist Patrick Tracy Lowell Putnam. Loaned materials were returned to the donor and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels N70-10 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The 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

Anne Eisner Putnam (1911-1967) was an abstract painter, a landscape painter, a watercolorist, a printer, and a writer. Additionally, she and her husband were collectors of African art.

Putnam attended the Art Students League and was the secretary for the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors. She married anthropologist Patrick Tracy Lowell Putnam and together they moved to Africa. From 1945 to 1953, Putnam lived in a Pygmy village in the Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) in the Ituri Rainforest, and devoted her painting and writing talents to portraying the life of the Congo Pygmies and African flora and fauna. Her collection of African art was exhibited in 1967 at the Museum of Natural History, New York.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter Anne Eisner Putnam consist of 40 items and date from 1936 to 1968. Found is an application for *Who's Who of American Women*, and two letters concerning her book and artwork. Printed material includes clippings (1936-1965) about exhibitions of her artwork in New York, her experiences in Africa, press releases, and her obituary. Photographs are of Eisners' paintings; of Putnam at "Camp Putnam" in the Ituri Rainforest in the Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) with members of one of the Congo Pygmy tribes; a snapshot of Putnam; and a portrait of Patrick Tracy Lowell Putnam.

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:

Women artists
Women painters

Names:

Putnam, Patrick Tracy Lowell, 1903 or 4-1953

Occupations:

Painters -- Congo (Democratic Republic)
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Places:

Africa, Central -- Description and Travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Anne Eisner Putnam papers, 1936-1968

40 Items (2 folders)

Scope and Contents: Material on Anne Eisner Putnam includes a completed application to be included in *Who's Who of American Women*; two letters--one concerning her art collection and one concerning her book; a eulogy of Putnam written by curator Colin Turnball; an obituary; an exhibition press release; and fifteen clippings about her career, her time in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and her collection of African Art. Seventeen photographs depict Putnam with members of the Congo Pygmy tribes around 1950; a snapshot of Putnam; a portrait of her husband Patrick Tracy Lowell Putnam; and photographs of her works of art.

Folder 1 Material on Anne Eisner Putnam, 1936-1968

Folder 2 Photographs, circa 1950s

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