



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ethel B. Rabin Papers, circa 1925-1976, 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>	Ethel B. Rabin papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1925-1976
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.rabieth
<b>Creator:</b>	Rabin, Ethel B. (Ethel Berley)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter, sculptor, and fashion designer Ethel Rabin measure 0.3 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 1976. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and sketches, primarily documenting Rabin's later career.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1978 by Ethel Rabin.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Ethel B. Rabin papers, circa 1925-1976. 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Ethel Berley Rabin (1892-1981) was a painter and sculptor in New York City, New York. Rabin began her career working as a fashion designer and owned Berley Studios, a subscription service which provided copies of sketches to the fashion industry. Studio artists created original designs and also copied the Paris fashion shows, and Berley Studios was one of the leading forerunners of today's fashion forecasting and reporting businesses.

Rabin later became a sculptor and painter.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, sculptor, and fashion designer Ethel Rabin measure 0.3 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 1976. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and sketches, primarily documenting Rabin's later career.

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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:

- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

### Occupations:

- Fashion designers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Ethel Rabin Papers, circa 1925-1976

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

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include awards, certificates, and a resume. Letters are from artists, clients, and professional organizations including Artists Equity Association, Columbia University, Ralph Fabri, National Association of Women Artists, Inc., and Michael Schimmel. Some letters contain lists of works of art. Photographs and slides include portraits of Rabin and of Rabin painting in Provincetown, and also depict works of art including paintings and sculpture. Clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releases concern Rabin's professional exhibition career. Also found are painted sketches of nautical scenes and figures.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1965-1976
Oversize 2, Folder 1	Biographical Material, Oversized, 1965-1976
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1941-1975
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Photographs, circa 1925-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, 1962-1975
Box 1, Folder 6	Sketches, circa 1930-circa 1960
Oversize 2, Folder 2	Sketches, Oversized, circa 1930-circa 1960

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