



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Hilla Rebay Papers, 1921-1963, 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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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Hilla Rebay papers
Date:	1921-1963
Identifier:	AAA.rebahill
Creator:	Rebay, Hilla, 1890-1967
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of abstract artist, collector, and museum director Hilla Rebay measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1963. Found are photographs, printed materials concerning Rebay and the Guggenheim Foundation Museum of Non-Objective Painting, and a transcript from a court case involving taxes.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Records documenting the legal case were donated by the Art Dealers Association of America in 1963, which participated in the case by designating expert witness for the government to testify as to the market value of paintings. Provenance of the rest of the collection is unknown.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 74 and 3481 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed onto reels 74 and 3481 upon receipt. 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

Hilla Rebay papers, 1921-1963. 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

Abstract painter, art collector, and museum director Hilla Rebay (1890-1967) was active in New York City, New York, and served as the first director of the Guggenheim Museum.

Born Baroness Hildegard Anna Augusta Elisabeth Rebay von Ehrenwiesen in France, she studied art in Germany, Switzerland, and France. Rebay worked with Solomon Guggenheim to form a collection of Non-Objective paintings which became the foundation of the art collection of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of abstract artist, collector, and museum director Hilla Rebay measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1963. Found are photographs, printed materials concerning Rebay and the Guggenheim Foundation Museum of Non-Objective Painting, and a transcript from a court case involving taxes.

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:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Women artists
- Women arts administrators
- Women painters

Names:

- Art Dealers Association of America
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Occupations:

- Museum directors -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Hilla Rebay Papers, 1921-1963

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Rebay and the architectural model of the new Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Printed materials concern Rebay's exhibition career and the formation of the Guggenheim Foundation Museum of Non-Objective Painting. Included are exhibition announcements and catalogs, postcards, and publicity materials for the opening of the museum in 1939. Also found is a 1921 issue of *Der Sturm*, a modern art magazine from Berlin.

Box 1, Folder 1	Photographs, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 2	Printed Material, Hilla Rebay Exhibition Catalogs, 1929-1962
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, Der Sturm, 1921
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Material, Guggenheim Foundation, 1939-1953
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, Vanderbilt Museum Postcards, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 6-8	Transcript, Tax Court, 1963

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