



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Florence Resnikoff Papers, 1945-2011, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

2025/02/03

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Florence Resnikoff Papers, 1945-2011	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Florence Resnikoff papers
Date:	1945-2011
Identifier:	AAA.resnflor
Creator:	Resnikoff, Florence Lisa Herman
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of metalsmith and educator Florence Resnikoff (1920-2013) measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1945 to 2011. The papers focus on Resnikoff's career as a professional metalsmith producing jewelry and liturgical artworks. Found are biographical material including, correspondence, subject files, personal business records, photographs, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2021 by Carl Resnikoff, Florence Resnikoff's son.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2025 with received support from the Judith Godwin Arts Foundation

Preferred Citation

Florence Resnikoff papers, 1945-2011. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Florence Resnikoff (1920-2013) was a metalsmith known for jewelry design in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. Born in Texas, Resnikoff studied art and learned the basics of jewelry making at the Ox-Bow Summer School of Painting through the Art Institute of Chicago. She focused on jewelry, working with metals and enamel after moving to San Francisco in 1951. In addition to exhibiting her works widely around the California and the United States, Resnikoff taught at the California College of Arts and Crafts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of metalsmith and educator Florence Resnikoff (1920-2013) measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1945 to 2011. The papers focus on Resnikoff's career as a professional metalsmith producing jewelry and liturgical artworks. Found are biographical material including, correspondence, subject files, personal business records, photographs, and printed material.

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 jewelers

Occupations:

- Educators -- California -- San Francisco
- Jewelers -- California -- San Francisco
- Metal-workers -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Florence Resnikoff Papers, 1945-2011

1.2 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials contain artist statements, awards, biographical sketches, blank stationery, and a copy of a 1953 flyer used to publicize and sell her jewelry pieces. One electronic disc (cd) contains copies of her resume and portraits. Resnikoff's professional correspondence is with galleries and institutions concerning the exhibition and sale of her artwork. Also found are fan mail letters from customers. Subject files concern her involvement in the Midwest Designer Craftsmen organization; her study of palladium which includes original writings and printed material; and a conference. Also found are files relating to the sale of liturgical artwork at the Church of the Presentation in Stockton, California, St Mary/Francis de Sales in Oakland, California, St Anne Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, and St. Jerome Church in El Cerrito, California.

Personal business records contain employment records from the California College of the Arts; educational records from San Jose State University; as well receipts for metallurgy services, records of the sales of her works, and pricelists. Of note is a detailed list of works involved in a burglary. Two photographs are from Resnikoff's time at artist summer camps in Saugaruck, Michigan. A 1945 photo from Ox-Bow, the summer school of the Art Institute of Chicago is of Resnikoff painting with Jane Bacher. Also found is a photograph of an outdoor painting class from 1949 or 1950 labeled the Michigan Pot Shop. Other photographs are of a Resnikoff giving a demonstration of electroforming, and of a conference in Peru.

Printed materials consist of clippings and exhibition announcements and catalogs for group and solo shows.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Biographical Material, 1953-2011 Includes 1 electronic disc (cd)
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 1952-2006
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Fan Mail, 1952-2011
Box 1, Folder 6	Subject File, Contemporary Metal Art of Korea Conference, 1988
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Subject File, Liturgical Art, 1990-2001
Box 1, Folder 9	Subject File, Midwest Designer Craftsmen, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 10	Subject File, Palladium, 1989-2007
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Personal Business Records, 1950-2003
Box 1, Folder 13	Photographs, 1945-2000
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Material, Clippings, 1945-2000

Box 1, Folder 15	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 16-18	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 19-20	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 1	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 2	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1980-1989
Box 2, Folder 3	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1990-1999
Box 2, Folder 4	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2000-2011

[Return to Table of Contents](#)