



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Louisa Robins Papers, 1918-1968, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2023/08/29

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Louisa Robins papers
Date:	1918-1968
Identifier:	AAA.robiloui
Creator:	Robins, Louisa Winslow, 1898-1962
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of New York painter Louisa Robins measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1918 to 1968. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, a mixed-media scrapbook, and travel writings. Of note are original drawings for Robins's travel writings and Christmas card designs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Mrs. Julien McKee and Mrs. Evan Thomas, Robins' daughters, in 1978.

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

Louisa Robins papers, 1918-1968. 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

Louisa Robins (1898-1962) was a painter and illustrator in Buffalo and Long Island, New York. Largely self-taught, Robins briefly studied with George Luks while at Gutzon Borglum's studio in Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York painter Louisa Robins measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1918 to 1968. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, a mixed-media scrapbook, and travel writings. Of note are original drawings for Robins's travel writings and Christmas card designs.

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:

Luks, George Benjamin, 1867-1933

Occupations:

Illustrators -- New York (State)
Painters -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Louisa Robins Papers, 1918-1968

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include awards, a guest book for an exhibition, personal business records, and resumes. Also found are Robins's original designs and artwork for Christmas and holiday greeting cards. Robins's professional correspondence is with Stephan Bourgeois, the Carnegie Institute, Golden Gate International, Frances Miller, Marie Sterner Galleries, Pepsi-Cola Annual Art Competition, George Plimpton, and Ruth Washburn. Personal letters are from Robins to her husband, Thomas Robins Jr., which she wrote from Gutzon Borglum's studio in Connecticut. In these letters, Robins describes the progress of her pregnancy and current events such as World War I and the Spanish Flu epidemic. Also, she describes her study with George Luks, Luks's relationship with his wife, and Luks's artwork and process. Also found is one letter to Thomas Robins Jr. from his mother.

Photographs are of portraits of Louisa Winslow Robins, her artwork, and exhibitions. Printed materials consist of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and reproductions of works of art. A mixed-media scrapbook consists of material focusing on Robins's exhibition career and includes correspondence, clippings, photographs of Robins, and writings on Robins. Also found are a diary, notes, and typescripts of articles written for travel publications on Mexico, Portugal, and Spain. Other material concerning travel includes sketches and final printed copies of travel guides written and illustrated by Robins.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Biographical Material, 1936-1960
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Christmas Card Designs , 1954-1961
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1918
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1933-1939
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs, of Louisa Robins and Exhibitions, 1949-1956
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Photographs, of Works of Art, 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 14-15	Printed Material, Clippings, 1940-1962
Box 1, Folder 16-18	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1944-1968
Box 1, Folder 19	Printed Material, Reproductions of Works of Art, 1950-1958

Box 1, Folder 20	Scrapbook, 1938-1965
Box 2, Folder 1	Travel Journalism, Artwork, circa 1950
Oversize 3	Travel Journalism, Artwork, circa 1950
Box 2, Folder 2	Travel Journalism, Diaries, 1938-1960
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Travel Journalism, Printed Material, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Travel Journalism, Writings, circa 1950s-1960s

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