



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Anne Ryan papers, circa 1905-1970, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Anne Ryan papers
Date:	circa 1905-1970
Identifier:	AAA.ryananne
Creator:	Ryan, Anne, 1889-1954
Extent:	3.8 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of New York-based painter, printmaker, collagist and writer Anne Ryan measure 3.8 linear feet and date from circa 1905 to 1970. The papers document her career as an artist and writer in New York, New Jersey and Spain through biographical material, correspondence, diaries and journals, writings, printed material, photographic material and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Anne Ryan papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1971 by Elizabeth McFadden, Anne Ryan's daughter.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 86-88 and 440 at the 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 received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and most of the papers were microfilmed on reels 86-88 and 440. The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Anne Ryan papers, circa 1905-1970. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Anne Ryan (1889-1954) was a painter, printmaker, collagist, graphic artist and author who primarily worked in New York City, but also in New Jersey and Spain.

Anne Ryan was born in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1889. She attended St. Elizabeth's Academy and College. She married lawyer William J. McFadden and had three children – William, Elizabeth and Thomas. They lived in Newark, New Jersey and divorced in 1923. Ryan often went to Greenwich Village in New York City and was something of a fixture in the arts and literary community. In 1925 she published a book of poetry, *Lost Hills*, and her novel *Raquel* was also published around this time.

Around 1931, Ryan moved to Spain and lived there for roughly four years, mostly in Mallorca and Ibiza, though she traveled to Paris as well. She then returned to New York City and moved into 124 West Fourth Street, which was occupied by many artists and writers. She opened a restaurant called *The Hearthstone* in the building's basement.

Ryan began painting around 1938. Artist Hans Hofmann lived nearby and visited her studio to provide encouragement, telling her to pursue her own course artistically and not to seek formal instruction. Ryan's first exhibition was in 1941. During this time she joined the printmaking studio *Atelier 17* run by British artist William Stanley Hayter who had fled from Paris, France due to World War II. Thanks to the studio, Ryan befriended many European expatriate artists and started making woodblock prints and engravings.

In 1948, Ryan saw an exhibition of collages by Kurt Schwitters that inspired her to begin creating collages herself. During her late career, she made hundreds of collages and had multiple exhibitions at Betty Parsons Gallery in New York City. Ryan was also a prolific writer and many of her short stories and travel essays were published in magazines and periodicals. She died in 1954 in Morristown, New Jersey.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York-based painter, printmaker, collagist and writer Anne Ryan measure 3.8 linear feet and date from circa 1905 to 1970. The papers document her career as an artist and writer in New York, New Jersey and Spain through biographical material, correspondence, diaries and journals, writings, printed material, photographic material and artwork.

Biographical material includes a mixture of legal and financial records as well as other personal documents. There are account books, art inventories, biographical statements, estate papers, exhibition lists, price lists, loan and consignments records, bills and receipts, banking and tax records, assorted travel documents, and other miscellaneous items.

Correspondence is with editors, museums, galleries, family and friends. Many of the letters have typed transcriptions that go along with the original handwritten correspondence. There is also correspondence with Anne Ryan's daughter, Elizabeth McFadden.

There are six diaries, journals, and travel diaries. The diaries and journals describe progress on artwork and writing, as well as daily appointments and activities.

Writings consists of notes, notebooks, poetry and manuscripts. The bulk of the series consists of handwritten and typescript drafts of books, short stories and essays. There are a few items written by others.

Printed material includes exhibition announcements, catalogs, clippings and magazines. Most of the periodicals include essays and stories written by Ryan. There are some printed materials such as postcards, travel brochures and clippings from Ryan's time in Spain.

Two family albums and photographs depict Anne Ryan, family, friends, colleagues, artwork, exhibition installations and houses.

Also found are materials Ann Ryan used to make artwork, such as engraved metal plates for prints, engraved woodcuts for woodblock prints, and handmade stencils. Some drawings are also included.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-circa 1970 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1922-1968 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Diaries and Journals, 1924-1942 (Boxes 1-2; 0.3 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Writings, circa 1923-circa 1954 (Boxes 2-3; 1.4 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1925-1970 (Boxes 3-4; 0.6 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1905-circa 1954 (Boxes 4-5; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 7: Artwork, circa 1930-circa 1954 (Box 5; 0.3 linear feet)
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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:

Printmakers -- Spain
Women artists
Women authors
Women painters
Women printmakers

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Drawings
Travel diaries

Names:

McFadden, Elizabeth

Occupations:

Authors -- New York (State) -- New York
Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York
Collagists -- Spain
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- Spain
Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-circa 1970

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes a mixture of legal and financial records as well as other personal documents. There are account books, art inventories, biographical statements, estate papers, exhibition lists, price lists, loan and consignments records, bills and receipts, banking and tax records, assorted travel documents and a passport. Also included is an award certificate, engraved nameplate, astrological charts and other miscellaneous material.

Box 1, Folder 1	Account Book, 1947-1949
Box 1, Folder 2	Account Book, 1949-1950
Box 1, Folder 3	Art Inventories and Lists, circa 1948-1967
Box 1, Folder 4	Art Inventories and Lists, circa 1938-1973
Box 1, Folder 5	Art Loan, Sale and Consignment Receipts, circa 1945-1967
Box 1, Folder 6	Astrological Charts, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 7	Award Certificate, 1951
Box 1, Folder 8	Banking and Tax Records, 1937-1951
Box 1, Folder 9	Bills and Receipts, 1932-1951
Box 1, Folder 10	Biographical Statements, circa 1954-circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 11	Calling Cards and Engraved Nameplate, circa 1920-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Estate Papers, 1954-1958
Box 1, Folder 13	Passport and Travel Documents, 1931-1933
Box 1, Folder 14	Miscellaneous Material, circa 1932-circa 1954

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1922-1968

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with editors, museums, galleries, family and friends. Many of the letters have typed transcriptions that go along with the original handwritten correspondence. There is also correspondence with Anne Ryan's daughter, Elizabeth McFadden, concerning her mother's artwork, and condolence letters to McFadden on her mother's death.

Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1922-1931
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1932 January-February
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1932 March
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1932 April-September
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1932 October
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1932 November-December
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1933 January-April
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1933 May-December
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1934-1939
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1940-1945
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1946
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, 1947-1949
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence, 1950-1951
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 1952
Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, 1953
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, 1954 January-April
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, 1954 May-November
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, 1955
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence, 1956-1962
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence, 1963-1968

Box 1, Folder 35-38

Undated Correspondence, circa 1930-circa 1954

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Series 3: Diaries and Journals, 1924-1942

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: There are six diaries, journals and travel diaries in this series. The diaries and journals describe progress on artwork and writing, as well as daily appointments and activities. Folder titles are transcribed from the book covers. Two of the diaries are from Anne Ryan's time living abroad in Spain - one from Mallorca and the other from Ibiza.

Arrangement: The diaries and journals are in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 39	Diary, 1924
Box 1, Folder 40	Journal, 1928-1930
Box 1, Folder 41	"Mallorca Notebook", circa 1931
Box 1, Folder 42	"Notebook of Ibiza", 1931
Box 1, Folder 43	Journal, 1934-1935
Box 2, Folder 1	Journal, 1938, 1941-1942

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Series 4: Writings, circa 1923-circa 1954

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of notes and poetry, as well as drafts of short stories, essays and novels. Most of the notebooks are untitled and contain Anne Ryan's recipes and thoughts on various subjects. The leather, pottery, tiles and woodcuts notebooks are dedicated to her artwork and include price lists, information on materials, and instructions about how to make certain kinds of objects. The bulk of the series consists of handwritten and typescript drafts of the book *The Boyhood of Junipero Serra*; her novel *Raquel*, listed here under its working title *One Life, Raquel!*; and numerous short stories and essays about her travels abroad, mostly in Spain. There are a few items written by others. Most of the material is undated, so date ranges are approximate.

Arrangement: Notebooks are at the start of the series, followed by drafts of writings arranged alphabetically by title. Miscellaneous notes and untitled drafts are grouped together next. Writings by others are at the end of the series.

Box 2, Folder 2	"Colored Woodcuts" Notebook (Disbound), 1945-1951
Box 2, Folder 3	"Leather" Notebook, 1944-1948
Box 2, Folder 4	"Pottery" Notebook, 1946-1949 Notes: Notebook includes references to "Hayter" (probably William Stanley Hayter) and what are possibly lesson notes from classes with Hayter.
Box 2, Folder 5	"Tiles" Notebook, 1944-1950
Box 2, Folder 6	Poetry Notebook, 1925-1954
Box 2, Folder 7	Poetry Notebook, 1932-1943
Box 2, Folder 8	Poetry Notebook, 1932-1948
Box 2, Folder 9	"Stories" Notebook, circa 1925-circa 1937
Box 2, Folder 10	Notebook, 1930
Box 2, Folder 11	Notebook, 1932
Box 2, Folder 12	Notebook, circa 1932
Box 2, Folder 13	Notebook, 1953-1954
Box 2, Folder 14	"Andalusian Wash Day", circa 1930-circa 1954
Box 2, Folder 15	"Autumn", circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 2, Folder 16	Artist's Statement on Color Woodblocks, 1949

Box 2, Folder 17	The Boyhood of Junipero Serra Partial Handwritten Draft and Notes, circa 1933
Box 2, Folder 18	The Boyhood of Junipero Serra First Draft, circa 1933
Box 2, Folder 19	The Boyhood of Junipero Serra Typescript Draft, circa 1933
Box 2, Folder 20	The Boyhood of Junipero Serra Bound Typescript Draft, circa 1933
Box 2, Folder 21	The Boyhood of Junipero Serra Bound Typescript Draft, circa 1933
Box 2, Folder 22	"Chapel of the Brides", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 23	"Chocolateria", 1931
Box 2, Folder 24	"The Clowns at the Inn at Deya", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 25	"The Coat", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 26	"The Darkest Leaf", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 27	"The Dove at San Vincente", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 28	"Extreme Unction", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 29	"Fear", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 30	"The Feastday of the Stallions and Other Spanish Sketches", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 31	"The Feather Sheets", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 32	"Ibiza I", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 33	"The Inn at Petra", 1932
Box 2, Folder 34	"The Kiss", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 35	"Late Blooms the Eglantine", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 36	"Laughter", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 37	"The Linen Shop", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 38	"Ludvica", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 39	"The Man Who Lost Laughter", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 40	"Maria Succora", circa 1925-circa 1945

Box 2, Folder 41	"Mass at Palma", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 42	"Mediterranean Fishing Boats", 1931
Box 2, Folder 43	"Mediterranean Fish Spearing", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 44	"Moonlight", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 45	"No Single Thing Abides", circa 1925-circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 46-47	One Life, Raquel!, circa 1923-circa 1926
Box 3, Folder 1	One Life, Raquel!, circa 1923-circa 1926
Box 3, Folder 2-3	"Parable in Stone", circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 4	"Para Lavar", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 5	"Perfumeria", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 6	"Petra de Majorca", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 7	"San Bernadino", 1932
Box 3, Folder 8	"She Was Divorced", circa 1952
Box 3, Folder 9	"The Silver Piece", 1953
Box 3, Folder 10	"The Spiders", circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 11	"The Street of the Silversmiths", 1932
Box 3, Folder 12	"To Die", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 13	"Two Churches with Carvings", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 14	"The Wedding", circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 15	"The Women of Ibiza", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 16	"The Women of Mallorca", circa 1930-circa 1935
Box 3, Folder 17	Poems, circa 1932-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 18	Untitled Manuscript, circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 19	Untitled Manuscripts, circa 1925-circa 1954

Box 3, Folder 20	Untitled Writing Fragments, circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 21	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1925-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 22	"The Love and Death of the Knight Cornet Christopher Rilke" by Rainer Maria Rilke, 1943 Notes: Translated by Anne Ryan
Box 3, Folder 23	"The Unedited Diary of Tomas Meabe" Translated by Liam McFadden, circa 1940-circa 1954

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1925-1970

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements, catalogs, clippings and magazines. There are a few books, including a copy of Anne Ryan's book of poetry, *Lost Hills*. Most of the periodicals include essays and stories written by Ryan. There are some printed materials such as postcards, travel brochures, clippings, and Spanish language learning books that date from Ryan's time in Spain.

Arrangement: The bulk of the materials are arranged by document type, but all the materials related to Spain is grouped together at the end of the series.

Box 3, Folder 24	The Commonweal Issues, 1931
Box 3, Folder 25	The Commonweal Issues, 1932
Box 3, Folder 26	The Commonweal Issues, 1935-1938
Box 3, Folder 27	The Literary Digest, 1932
Box 3, Folder 28	Lost Hills by Anne Ryan, 1925
Box 3, Folder 29	The Majorca Sun, 1933
Box 3, Folder 30	Voices: A Quarterly of Poetry, 1944
Box 3, Folder 31	Exhibition Announcements, 1941-1970
Box 3, Folder 32	Exhibition Catalogs, 1940-1949
Box 3, Folder 33-35	Exhibition Catalogs, 1950-1959
Box 3, Folder 36	Exhibition Catalogs, 1962-1967
Box 3, Folder 37	Exhibition Catalogs, 1967-1969
Box 3, Folder 38-41	Clippings, circa 1930-circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 42	Clippings of Images of Artwork by Others, circa 1930-circa 1954
Box 3, Folder 43	Spain Postcards (Blank), circa 1932-1935
Box 3, Folder 44	Spain Travel Brochures, 1932-1935

Box 4, Folder 1

Spanish Language Learning Books, circa 1932

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Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1905-circa 1954

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of two family albums and photographs of Anne Ryan, family, friends; colleagues, notably the artist Stanley William Hayter; artwork, exhibition installations and houses. There are a few negatives and transparencies scattered throughout.

Arrangement: Photographic materials are arranged by subject. The photographs of Anne Ryan are at the beginning of the series.

Box 4, Folder 2 [Anne Ryan Portraits, circa 1945-circa 1950](#)

Box 4, Folder 3 Anne Ryan Snapshots, circa 1910-circa 1950

Box 4, Folder 4 Family Album, circa 1905-circa 1918

Box 4, Folder 5 Family Album, circa 1910

Box 4, Folder 6 Family Photographs, circa 1910-circa 1950

Box 4, Folder 7 [Friends and Colleagues, circa 1930-circa 1950](#)

Box 4, Folder 8 Stanley William Hayter, circa 1945

Box 4, Folder 9 Artwork, circa 1949-circa 1953

Box 5, Folder 1 Exhibition Installations, circa 1950-circa 1954

Box 5, Folder 2 [Travel \(Mostly Spain\), circa 1931-circa 1935](#)

Box 5, Folder 3 Houses, circa 1920-circa 1950

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1930-circa 1954

0.3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: The bulk of this series consists of material Ann Ryan used to make artwork, such as two engraved metal plates for prints, two engraved woodcuts for woodblock prints, and handmade stencils. There are some drawings made in pencil, pastel and paint. Also included are cutouts that were used as "templates" for collages, pottery and leather slippers.

Box 5, Folder 4	Engraved Metal Plates for Prints, circa 1940-circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 5	Engraved Woodblocks for Prints, circa 1940-circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 6-9	Handmade Stencils, circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 10	Pastel Drawings and Paint Sketches, circa 1940-circa 1954
Box 5, Folder 11	"Patterns for Leather Slippers", 1949-1952
Box 5, Folder 12	Pencil Drawings, circa 1930-circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 13	"Templates for Pottery Figures" Cutouts, circa 1940-circa 1954
Box 5, Folder 14	"Templates for Oval Collages" Cutouts, circa 1940-circa 1954

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