A Finding Aid to the Lilian Swann Saarinen Papers, circa 1909-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie L. Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by The Walton Family Foundation; and John R. & Barbara Robinson and Deborah Schmidt Robinson & Dr. R. Perry Robinson, The Widgeon Point Charitable Foundation.

2015, May 13; 2016 January 26
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Lilian Swann Saarinen papers
Identifier: AAA.saarlili
Date: circa 1909-1977
Extent: 9 Linear feet
Creator: Saarinen, Lilian Swann, 1912-1995
Language: The bulk of the collection is in English.
Summary: The papers of Cambridge sculptor and illustrator, Lilian Swann Saarinen, measure nine linear feet and date from circa 1909 to 1977. The collection documents Saarinen's career through correspondence with artists, architects, publishers, and gallery owners; writings and notes, including manuscripts and illustrations for children's books and publications; project and teaching files; financial records; artwork, including numerous project sketches; and photos of Saarinen and her artwork. Saarinen's personal life is also documented through diaries and correspondence with friends and family members, including Eero Saarinen, to whom she was married from 1939-1953.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Lilian Swann Saarinen donated the collection in 1975. She lent additional materials for microfilming in 1976.

Separated Materials
The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming (reels 1152 and 1192) including a scrapbook containing clippings, copies of letters and telegrams received, and reproductions of Saarinen's work. There is a copy of Saarinen's book, "Who Am I?", and three albums containing photographs of Saarinen, photographs and reproductions of her work, a list of exhibitions, quotes about her, and writings by her about sculpture. Lent material was returned to the lender and is not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats
The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2017 with funding provided by The Walton Family Foundation. Material not digitized includes blank pages of diaries, unannotated pages of engagement calendars, routine financial transactions, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates.

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels 1152 and 1192 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.
Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level, and a finding aid was prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2015. The collection was further processed and prepared for scanning by Stephanie Ashley in 2017.

Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives’ Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Cambridge artist and sculptor, Lilian Swann Saarinen (1912-1995), studied at the Art Students League with Alexander Archipenko in 1928, and later with Albert Stewart and Heninz Warneke from 1934-1936, before moving to Michigan where she studied with Carl Milles at the Cranbrook Academy of Art from 1936-1940. Saarinen was an accomplished skier and a member of the 1936 US Olympic ski team.

At Cranbrook, Swann met architect Eero Saarinen, whom she married in 1939. She subsequently worked with Saarinen's design group on a variety of projects, including the Westward Expansion Memorial, which later became known as the "Gateway Arch" in St. Louis. Lilian and Eero had a son, Eric, and a daughter, Susie, before divorcing in 1953.

Saarinen, who had developed an affinity for drawing animals in childhood, specialized in animal portraits in a variety of sculptural media. In 1939, she exhibited her sculpture Night, which depicted Bagheera the panther from Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, at the World's Fair. The sculpture was placed in the Boston Public Garden in 1986. In the 1930s and 1940s Saarinen was commissioned to work on a variety of architectural projects, including reliefs for post offices in Bloomfield, Indiana, Carlisle, Kentucky, and Evanston, Illinois, and the Crow Island School in Winnetka, Illinois. She also executed commissions for the Harbor National Bank in Boston, KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) at JFK Airport, the Northland shopping Center in Detroit Michigan, and Toffenetti's Restaurant in Chicago.

Saarinen was a contributing author and illustrator for a variety of publications, including Child Life, Interiors and Portfolio: An Intercontinental Quarterly. In 1935 she illustrated Picture Book Zoo for the Bronx Zoo and in 1946 Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc. published Who Am I?, a children's book which Saarinen wrote and illustrated.
Saarinen taught ceramic sculpture to soldiers for the Red Cross Arts and Skills Unit rehabilitation program in 1945, served on the Visiting Committee to the Museum School at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from 1959-1964, where she taught ceramics, and later taught a course entitled "The Language of Clay" at the Cambridge Art Center and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. One of Saarinen's private students at Cambridge was her cousin, Edie Sedgwick.

Saarinen died in Cohasset, Massachusetts, in 1995 at the age of 83.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Cambridge sculptor and illustrator, Lilian Swann Saarinen, measure nine linear feet and date from circa 1909 to 1977. The collection documents Saarinen's career through correspondence with artists, architects, publishers, and gallery owners; writings and notes, including manuscripts and illustrations for children's books and publications; project and teaching files; financial records; artwork, including numerous project sketches; and photos of Saarinen and her artwork. Saarinen's personal life is also documented through diaries and correspondence with friends and family members, including Eero Saarinen, to whom she was married from 1939-1953.

Biographical material consists of resumes and biographical sketches, as well as a 1951 blueprint for the Eero Saarinen and Associates Office Building in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Correspondence documents Saarinen's personal and professional life through letters to and from Eero Saarinen and other family members, including six letters from Loja Saarinen; correspondence with artists and architects, including Merle Armitage, Charles and Ray Eames, Carl Koch, Henry Kreis, Carl Milles, Laszlo and Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Robert Venturi, and Harry Weese; and friends and colleagues at the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Knoll Associates. Also documented is Saarinen's business relationship with Midtown Galleries and Caresse Crosby, and publishers and publications including Child Life, Interiors, Otava Publishing Company, and Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc.

Writings and Notes document Saarinen's work on several children's publications, including Picture Book Zoo (1935) and Who Am I? (1946), through correspondence, notes, manuscript drafts, and extensive sketches. This series also includes Saarinen's ideas for other publications and incorporates some early writings and notes, as well as typescripts of her reminiscences about Eliel Saarinen, the Saarinen family, and the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Diaries consist of bound diary volumes, loose-leaf journal entries, and heavily annotated engagement calendars, documenting Saarinen's personal life, artistic aspirations, and career development from the 1930s-1970s. This material provides a deeply personal view of the emotional landscape of Saarinen's life, her struggles to balance her identity as a working artist with the roles of wife, mother, and homemaker, and the complex, and often competing, relationships within the renowned architectural family into which she married.

Project files document Saarinen's work on book cover designs, federal and post office commissions in Bloomfield, Indiana, Carlisle, Kentucky, and Evanston, Illinois, reliefs for the Crow Island School in Winnetka, Illinois, and other important commissions including the Harbor National Bank Clock in Boston, Massachusetts, the KLM Airlines installation at JFK Airport, the Fountain of Noah sculpture at the Northland Center in Detroit, Michigan, and the interior of Toffenetti's restaurant in Chicago, Illinois. Also documented is her role in designs for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, with Eero Saarinen.

Teaching files document Saarinen's "Language of Clay Course" which she taught at Cambridge Art Center and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Financial records document exhibition and sales expenses for two exhibitions, including her show at G Place Gallery in 1944.

Printed material consists of clippings about Saarinen and her family, exhibition announcements and catalogs for herself and others, and reference files from the 1930s-1940s, primarily comprising clippings of animals.

Additional printed material documenting Saarinen's career can be found in one of two scrapbooks found in the collection. An additional scrapbook consists of clippings relating primarily to Saarinen's parents.

Artwork comprises extensive sketches, particularly animal and figure sketches, in graphite, crayon, ink, pastel, and watercolor. The sketches demonstrate in particular Saarinen's developing interest in and skill with animal portraiture from her childhood to the 1960s.

Photographs are primarily of artwork and Saarinen's 1944 exhibition at G Place Gallery. Also found are one negative of Saarinen, probably with Eero Saarinen, and a group photo including Lilian, Eero, and Eliel Saarinen with the model for the Detroit Civic Center, circa 1940s.

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 11 series.

- **Series 1**: Biographical Material, circa 1930s-1960s (3 folders; Box 1, OV 12)
- **Series 2**: Correspondence, 1920-1974 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, 8, OV 12)
- **Series 3**: Writings and Notes, 1920s-1973 (1.3 linear feet, Boxes 2-3, 8, OVs 13-16)
- **Series 4**: Diaries, 1930-1973 (1.4 linear feet, Boxes 3-5, 8)
- **Series 5**: Project Files, 1931-1966 (1.7 linear feet, Boxes 5-6, 8, OVs 17-19)
- **Series 6**: Teaching Files, 1966-1970 (3 folders, Box 6)
- **Series 7**: Financial Records, 1940s-1970s (2 folders, Box 6)
- **Series 8**: Printed Material, circa 1930s-1970s (0.2 linear feet, Box 6)
- **Series 9**: Scrapbooks, circa 1930s-1970s (0.2 linear feet, Box 6)
- **Series 10**: Artwork, circa 1920s-circa 1960s (1.7 linear feet, Boxes 6-7, 9-10, OVs 20-27)
- **Series 11**: Photographs, circa 1940s, 1977 (0.5 linear feet, Boxes 7, 11, OV 27)

### Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

**Subjects:**
- Art -- Study and teaching
- Art, Municipal
- Gateway Arch (Saint Louis, Mo.)
- Illustrated books, Children's
- Illustrators -- Massachusetts
- Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States
- Women artists -- Massachusetts

**Types of Materials:**
- Blueprints
- Diaries
Illustrations
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches

Names:
Armitage, Merle, 1893-1975
Cambridge Art Center
Cranbrook Academy of Art -- Faculty
Crosby, Caresse, 1892-
Eames, Charles
Eames, Ray
G Place Gallery (Washington, D.C.)
Knoll Associates, inc.
Koch, Carl
Kreis, Henry, 1899-1963
Massachusetts Institute of Technology -- Faculty
Midtown Galleries (New York, N.Y.)
Milles, Carl, 1875-1955
Moholy-Nagy, László, 1895-1946
Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl, 1905-
Otava Publishing Company
Reynal & Hitchcock
Saarinen, Eero, 1910-1961
Saarinen, Eliel, 1873-1950
Saarinen, Loja
Venturi, Robert
Weese, Harry, 1915-1998

Occupations:
Sculptors -- Massachusetts -- Cambridge

Functions:
Art commissions
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1930s-1960s

3 Folders (Box 1, OV 12)

Biographical material consists of résumés and biographical sketches written by Saarinen, and a 1951 blueprint of the Eero Saarinen and Associates office building in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, labeled "July/54 Kiln data."

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1  Blueprint, Eero Saarinen and Associates Office Building, 1951
  Image(s)
  Oversized material housed in OV 12

Box 1, Folder 2  Resumes and Biographical Notes, circa 1930s-1966
  Image(s)

Box OV 12  Oversized Blueprint, Eero Saarinen and Associates Office Building scanned with Box 1, Folder 1

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1920-1974

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, 8, OV 12)

Saarinen's correspondence files document her personal life and career. Incoming letters form the bulk of the series, but are interspersed with outgoing letters, often in the form of drafts handwritten by Saarinen. Personal correspondence includes letters written between Lilian and Eero Saarinen, which provide insight into their relationship during the 1940s and early 1950s, and their decision to divorce in 1953. These letters also reference professional projects, including Eero Saarinen's involvement in the design of the Antioch College residence halls. Other letters describe Saarinen's planning meetings for the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and enclose sketches of his preliminary ideas for the project.

Many letters from Susan Hammond, Saarinen's mother, chronicle events in the Swann and Sedgwick families. Hammond frequently enclosed letters sent to her by others about Saarinen in her letters to Saarinen. Family correspondence includes letters from Saarinen's son, Eric, her sister Lucy Livingston Schwartz, letters from other members of the Swann family, and a letter from her cousin, Edie Sedgwick.

Letters which document Saarinen's professional life include correspondence with publishers and publications such as Child Life, for which Saarinen provided illustrations; Interiors regarding the publication of an article by Saarinen about her and her work; Otava Publishing Company, including the 1956 contract for the Finnish edition of Who Am I?; Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., relating to the original publication of Who Am I? in 1946; and Rutgers University Press regarding Saarinen's proposed jacket design for the cover of A Short Chronology of American History 1492-1950 (1952) by Irving S. and Nell M. Kull. Additional correspondence relating to Saarinen's writings can be found in Series 3: Writings and Notes.

Also found is correspondence with Caresse Crosby regarding the consignment of Saarinen's artwork to Gump's and other galleries in the 1940s, and referencing Crosby's Portfolio: An Intercontinental Quarterly, for which Saarinen provided illustrations. Correspondence with Alan D. Gruskin of Midtown Galleries, who Saarinen contracted to represent her nationally from 1943-1948, includes Saarinen's sketches for her 1944 exhibition at G Place Gallery in Washington D. C., under the direction of Caresse Crosby.

The series includes substantial correspondence with other artists and architects, many of whom were personal friends of Saarinen, including Merle Armitage, Walter Baermann, Alexander Calder, Charles and Ray Eames, Carl Koch, Henry Kreis, Carl Milles, Laszlo and Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Robert Venturi, and Harry Weese. Also found is correspondence with the design firm Knoll Associates, Cranbrook Academy of Art directors and artists Soltan Sepeshy, Maija Grotell and Marianne Strengell, six letters from Loja Saarinen, and a telegram from Eliel Saarinen.

The bulk of the correspondence relating to Saarinen's sculpture commissions can be found in Series 5: Project Files, but related correspondence is scattered throughout this series.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically. Correspondents who are represented by four or more items are housed in named files; all others are housed in general files for the corresponding letter of the alphabet.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 3    Abernathy, J.T., 1956-1964
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 4    Arkell, John, 1938-1974
Box 1, Folder 5  
Armitage, Merle and Elsa, 1942-1953

Box 1, Folder 6  
A, General, 1937-1972

Box 1, Folder 7  
Baldinger, Wallace S., 1948-1949

Box 1, Folder 8  
Bank of New York, 1946-1952

Box 1, Folder 9  
Barns, Katrina McCormick, circa 1940s

Box 1, Folder 10  
B, General, 1937-1973

Box 1, Folder 11  
Calder, Alexander, 1940-1955

Box 1, Folder 12  
Cavin, W. Brooks Jr., 1947

Box 1, Folder 13  
Child Life, 1946-1948

Box 1, Folder 14  
Congratulations/Thank You Letters for Picture Book Zoo, 1935

Box 1, Folder 15  
Cranbrook Academy of Art (Maija Grotell, Zoltan Sepeshy, Marianne Strengell), 1940s-1970

Box 1, Folder 16  
Crosby, Caresse (Crosby Gallery of Modern Art), 1934-1947

Box 1, Folder 17  
C, General, 1939-1972

Box 1, Folder 18  
Danforth, Maija C., circa 1943-1972
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>D, General, 1939-1972</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes illustrated letters; oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>English, Miller &amp; Hockett, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>E, General, 1943-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Falch, Hedi, 1940-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>F, General, 1936-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Grandin, Isabella (Bella), 1960s-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>G, General, circa 1940-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Hallowell, Johnny and Sis, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, circa 1920s-circa 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, circa 1940-circa 1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, circa 1942-circa 1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1920-1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 34  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1930-1939
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 35  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1940-1945
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 36  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1946-1948
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 37  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1952-1953 July
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 38  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1953 August-1969
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 39  Hammond, Susan and Paul, 1970-1974
Image(s)
One letter to Saarinen from 1974 encloses two photos of Lilian Swann Saarinen, circa 1935, and one photo of one of Saarinen's sculpture

Box 1, Folder 40  Haskell, Helen, 1953
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 41  H, General, 1931-1970
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 42  Interiors, 1944
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 43  I, General, 1942-1946
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 44  J, General, 1944-1953
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 45  Kiaer, Herman S, 1970s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 46  Kline, Robert and Norma, 1953-1954
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 47  Knoll Associates, 1948-1954
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 48  Koch, Carl, 1942-1947
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 12

Box 1, Folder 49  Kreis, Henry, 1940-1953
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 50  K, General, circa 1934-circa 1972
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 51  Lambie, Roxane, circa 1940s-1950s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 52  Lambie, Roxane, circa 1940s-circa 1950s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 53  Lambie, Roxane, circa 1940s-circa 1950s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 54  Lambie, Roxane, circa 1940s-1953
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 1  Lambie, Roxane, 1953-1954
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 2  Lambie, Roxane, 1954
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 3  Lambie, Roxane, 1955-1974
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4  Lander, E. W., 1948
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 5  Laughlin, James (Jay), circa 1939-1954
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 6  Loth, David, 1943
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 7  Lueders, J. E., circa 1940-1942
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8  Lütgerath, Hadwiga, 1947
Box 2, Folder 9  L, General, 1939-1968
    Image(s)
    Includes letter from Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Box 2, Folder 10  Midtown Galleries, circa 1941-1949
    Image(s)
    Oversized material housed in OV 12; includes sketches of exhibition layout

Box 2, Folder 11  Milles, Carl, circa 1943-1948
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 12  Moholy-Nagy, Laszlo and Sibyl, 1945-1948
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 13  Moloney, James Clark, 1966-1972
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 14  Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1959-1964
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 15  Museum of Modern Art, 1943-1949
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 16  M, General, 1943-1974
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 17  Norton, Marthia, 1938-1972
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 18  N, General, 1937-1949
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 19  Otava Publishing Company, 1955-1959
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 20  O, General, 1951-1952
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 21  Perkins, Lawrence and Midge, 1940-1948
    Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 22  Putnam, Brenda, 1934-1943
Box 2, Folder 23  P, General, 1936-1971
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 24  Rathbone, Beatrice (Babs), circa 1940-1969
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 25  Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., 1945-1947
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 26  Roach, Ellie (Ellie Worthyn), circa 1940s-1970
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 27  Robinson, Maude, 1948-1959
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 28  Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine, 1945-1948
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 29  Rutgers University Press, 1952
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 30  R, General, 1939-1970
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 31  Saarinen, Eero, circa 1940s-1950s
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 32  Saarinen, Eero, circa 1939-circa 1947
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 33  Saarinen, Eero, 1952
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 34  Saarinen, Eero, 1953
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 35  Saarinen, Eero, 1954
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 36  Saarinen, Loja, circa 1943-circa 1953
Box 2, Folder 37  Saunders, Louise and Silvia, circa 1940-1970  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 38  Schwartz, Lucy Livingston, 1940s-1970  
  Image(s)  
  Includes photo of Swann Saarinen, circa June 1970

Box 2, Folder 39  Stewart, Albert and Margaret, 1933-circa 1940  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 40  Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, 1940-1949  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 41  S, General: S.-Sec, 1940-1974  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 42  S, General: Sed-Sw, 1938-1971  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 43  S, Illegible, 1969  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 44  Thank You Letters from Children for *Who Am I?*, 1946-1947  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 45  T, General, 1938-1946  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 46  United States Post Office, 1942  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 47  Venturi, Robert, 1953-1955  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 48  V, General, circa 1940s  
  Image(s)  
  Includes one black and white and one color photo of a sculpture by Swann Saarinen

Box 2, Folder 49  Weese, Harry, circa 1940-1942  
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 50  Weese, Harry, 1945-1955
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 51  Weese, Harry E., 1953  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 52  Winnetka Public Schools, 1945-1946  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 53  W, General, circa 1940, 1974  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 54  Y-Z, General, 1942, 1972  Image(s)

Box 2  First Names Only

Box 2, Folder 55  Alice, Anna-Greta, 1940s-1950s  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 56  Barbara, Ben, Bobbie, 1940-1969  Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 57  Camilla, Casanova, Cavannas, Charles, Claus, circa 1940s-1971  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 58  Dorothy, Doda, circa 1930s-1940s  Image(s)
Doda letter encloses childhood drawings by Swann Saarinen

Box 2, Folder 59  Ed, Fran, Fred, circa 1940-1952  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 60  Gardner, Greta, Herman, Hildy, 1940s-1972  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 61  Jack, Jean, Jeanne, Jessie, John, circa 1939-1970  Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 62  Kenneth, Kiki, Kim, Louise, circa 1931-1956  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 63  Margaret, Marilyn, Marjorie, Marlee, Mary, circa 1941-1972
Box 2, Folder 64  Nell, Norma, Olga, 1934-1947
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 65  Pamela, Peter, Poppy, Prestin, 1930s-1970
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 66  R, Illegible, Roland, S, Illegible, circa 1940s
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 67  T, Illegible, Tom, Val, William (Bill), Willy, circa 1940s-1950s
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 68  Fragments of Letters from Lily Swann Saarinen, circa 1930s-circa 1968
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 69  Illegible/Unidentified, circa 1940s-1970s
  Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 1  Oversized Eames, Charles and Ray scanned with Box 1, Folder 20

Box 8, Folder 1  Oversized Hammond, Susan and Paul scanned with Box 1, Folder 37

Box 8, Folder 1  Oversized Saarinen, Eero scanned with Box 2 Folders 31 and 34

Box 8, Folder 1  Oversized First Names Only, Barbara, Be, Bobbie, scanned with Box 2, Folder 56

Box 8, Folder 1  Oversized First Names Only, Jack, Jean, Jeanne, Jessie, John scanned with Box 2, Folder 61

Box OV 12  Oversized Cavin, W. Brooks Jr. scanned with Box 1, Folder 12

Box OV 12  Oversized Koch, Carl scanned with Box 1, Folder 48

Box OV 12  Oversized Midtown Galleries scanned with Box 2, Folder 10

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1920s-1973

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 8, OV 13-16)

Writings and notes document the writing and publication of Saarinen's *Picture Book Zoo* and *Who Am I?*, as well as Saarinen's ideas in draft, typescript and sketch form for other publications such as "Animals and War Machines," a proposed follow-up to *Who Am I?* titled "Who Helps Who?" and other children's writings such as "Susie Sing All Day" and "What Is Mine?" Documentation consists of correspondence with publishers, drafts and typscripts of texts, original artwork including preliminary sketches, photos of artwork, and book layouts.

Also found are school writings from the 1920s-1930s; typescripts and handwritten drafts of Saarinen's memories of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Eliel Saarinen, and the Saarinen family; and miscellaneous writings which include "Sculpture by American Soldiers" in which Saarinen drew on her 1945 experience teaching convalescent soldiers.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 2, Folder 70  Anatomy Notebook, 1937  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 71  "Animals and War Machines" Book Ideas, circa 1943-1944  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 72  "Animals and War Machines" Book Ideas, circa 1943-circa 1944  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 73  "Animals and War Machines" Book Idea, Preliminary Sketches, circa 1944  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 74  "Animals and War Machines" Book Idea, Preliminary Sketches, circa 1944  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 75  "Animals and War Machines" Book Idea, Preliminary Sketches, circa 1944  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 76  "Animals and War Machines" Book Idea, Preliminary Sketches, circa 1944  Image(s)

Oversized material housed in Box 8, Folder 2 and OV 13

Box 3, Folder 1  "Miscellaneous Secret Thoughts and Writings of Mine", 1929-1931  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 2  Miscellaneous Writings, 1930s-1940s  Image(s)

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Box 8, Folder 3  Oversized Who Am I?, Original Artwork scanned with Box 3, Folder 20

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Box OV 13  Oversized Who Am I?, Photos of Artwork scanned with Box 3, Folder 21

Box OV 14  Oversized "Susie Sing All Day" scanned with Box 3, Folder 14

Oversize 15  Oversized Who Am I?, Original Artwork scanned with Box 3, Folder 20

Box OV 16  Oversized Who Am I?, Photos of Artwork scanned with Box 3, Folder 21

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Series 4: Diaries, 1930-1973

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5, 8)

Saarinen was a prolific journal writer and her diaries are in bound volume and loose leaf form. Bound diary volumes from 1930/1931 to 1942 document her life from her "coming out year" and continue through the early years of her marriage to Eero Saarinen. Her 1939 diary opens in Florence, Italy, in August 1939, days before Germany's invasion of Poland, and describes the tenuous situation the newlyweds found themselves in and their difficulties finding passage back to the United States. The diary labeled 1936 and 1937 also contains a series of entries for 1958-1959. Written on the page at the front of the 1939 December-1942 January is the inscription: "Diary-Cranbrook from Sept 1939 To:" and "The new Mrs. E. E. Saarinen!" but any original pages that existed from September-November are missing. The months August-October 1939 are included in the previous diary.

Loose diary entries, beginning around circa 1934 and continuing to 1953, with scattered additional entries in the 1950s-1970s, focus primarily on Saarinen's marriage to Eero Saarinen. They document in depth her emotional struggles as a working mother attempting to forge her own artistic identity, maintain a healthy family environment for her children, and support Eero Saarinen's growing international success, while not allowing that to stymie her own artistic ambitions. These folders include many handwritten notes and drafts of "letters" to Eero Saarinen which are journalistic in nature and include dream journals, "writings and ravings just before wedding," and notes found with her diaries.

Saarinen's engagement calendars are heavily annotated with notes documenting her professional appointments, progress on works of art and commissions, and Saarinen's leisure activities.

Some of the diary entries within volumes are not strictly chronological and often do not occur in a linear fashion.

The bulk of this series has been scanned with the exception of blank pages of diaries and unannotated pages of engagement calendars.

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Box 4, Folder 4  Diary of Greece and the Dalmation Coast, 1934
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Box 4, Folder 22  Loose Diary Entries and Fragments, 1948
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Box 5, Folder 1  Loose Diary Entries and Fragments, circa 1951-1953
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Box 5, Folder 2  Loose Diary Entries and Fragments, 1950
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Box 5, Folder 3  Loose Diary Entries and Fragments, 1951-1952
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Series 5: Project Files, 1931-1966

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6, 8, OV 17-19)

Project files document Saarinen's work on a variety of commissions including those for book cover designs, federal government buildings, post offices, schools and playgrounds (particularly the Crow Island School reliefs), companies such as KLM (then Royal Dutch Airlines), businesses such as Toffenetti's restaurant in Chicago, and private clients, including sister-in-law, Pipsan Saarinen. The majority of the projects documented here resulted in fully realized commissions for Saarinen, although several represent ideas and proposals.

Project files typically contain any and all of the following: correspondence and notes, many preliminary sketches, plans and blueprints, and photographs of artwork and project sites, with the bulk of the material being in the form of sketches. Sketches are primarily in graphite, although some are hand-colored with ink and/or paint.

Crow Island school sketches are arranged alphabetically by subject, primarily animals.

Project files are arranged alphabetically by name of project.

Series is scanned in entirety.

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                Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 16  Barn Dance, 1946
                Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 17  Barns, Katrina McCormick Sculpture, circa 1948
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Box 5, Folder 18  Bloomfield, Indiana, Post Office, circa 1941
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Box 5, Folder 19  Book Cover for New Directions in Prose and Poetry, circa 1937
                Image(s)

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Box 5, Folder 41
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Oversize 18    Oversized KLM Airlines Sculpture, JFK Airport scanned with Box 5, Folder 61

Oversize 18    Oversized Northland Center, Detroit, Michigan scanned with Box 5, Folder 66

Oversize 19    Oversized Toffenetti's Restaurant, Chicago, Illinois, Sketches and Metal Cut-Out scanned with Box 5, Folder 75

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Series 6: Teaching Files, 1966-1970

3 Folders (Box 6)

This series consists of three folders relating to a course Saarinen taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Cambridge Art Center entitled "The Language of Clay." Found are correspondence and memoranda, course descriptions, notes, and student rosters.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 6, Folder 5  Language of Clay Course, Cambridge Art Center, 1970  Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 6  Language of Clay Course, M. I. T., 1966-1967  Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 7  Language of Clay Course, M. I. T., 1966-1967  Image(s)

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Series 7: Financial Records, 1940s-1970s

2 Folders (Box 6)

Series consists of invoices and receipts for supplies and other art-related expenses, records of book royalties for *Who Am I?* from Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., and miscellaneous receipts. Also found are records documenting exhibition related expenses, and two catalogs for 1944 and 1956 Saarinen exhibitions, marked with prices.

The bulk of this series has been scanned with the exception of routine financial records such as receipts.

Box 6, Folder 8  Exhibition Sales and Expenses, 1940s-1950s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 9  Invoices and Receipts, 1940s-1970s
Image(s)
Series 8: Printed Material, circa 1930s-1970s

0.2 Linear feet (Box 6)

Series includes announcements and catalogs for two Saarinen exhibitions, as well as some for other artists, many of which are annotated with comments by Saarinen stating her opinion of the artist featured. Also found are copies of a book jacket for *The Americans: A New History of the People of the United States* (Little Brown and Company, 1963) by Oscar Handlin, the jacket design for which includes a photo of a brass eagle by Saarinen.

Printed material also includes a group of reference files of clippings, primarily featuring photos of animals, arranged alphabetically by animal, some news clippings about Saarinen and the Saarinen family, and a folder of news articles on miscellaneous subjects of interest to Saarinen.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 6, Folder 10 | Announcements and Catalogs, Saarinen, 1944-1952
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 11 | Announcements and Catalogs, Other Artists, circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 12 | Announcements and Catalogs, Other Artists, circa 1950s-circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 13 | News Clippings, 1950s-1970s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 14 | News Clippings About Saarinen and Family, circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 15 | Reference Material Index, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6 | Reference Material

Box 6, Folder 16 | Bats, Bears, Birds, Buffalo, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 17 | Cats, Cougar, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 18 | Deer, Donkeys, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 19 | Dogs, circa 1920s-circa 1930s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 20 | Dogs, circa 1920s-circa 1930s
Box 6, Folder 21  
Dogs, circa 1920s-circa 1930s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 22  
Elephants, Elk, Flowers, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 23  
Giant Pandas, Giraffes, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 24  
Horses, Insects, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 25  
Koala Bears, Lions, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 26  
Mice, Monkeys, Mountain Goats, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 27  
Okapi, Opossum, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 28  
Pekingese, Pigs, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 29  
Raccoons, Reptiles, Rhinoceroses, Squirrels, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 30  
Tigers, Wolves, Woodchucks, Zebra, "Rare Beasts", circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
Image(s)
Series 9: Scrapbooks, circa 1909-1974

2 Folders (Boxes 6, 9)

Series includes a family scrapbook of clippings about Saarinen's father, Dr. Arthur Swann, concerning his bee cures for rheumatism, as well as his marriage to Saarinen's mother, Susan Sedgwick.

The Saarinen scrapbook compiles letters, telegrams, news clippings, announcements and other printed material documenting Saarinen's career from 1935-1974.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 6, Folder 31 Family Scrapbook, circa 1909

Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 32 Saarinen Scrapbook, 1935-1974

Image(s)

Oversized volume housed in Box 9, Folder 1

Box 9, Folder 1 Oversized Saarinen Scrapbook from Box 6, Folder 32

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Series 10: Artwork, circa 1920s-circa 1960s

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 9-10, OV 20-27)

Artwork consists of Saarinen's sketches in graphite, crayon, ink, pastel, and watercolor that did not appear to be arranged as part of her project files. It includes early sketches dating from her childhood to her college years, and subsequent sketches from the 1940s-1960s, and illustrates her early and developing interest in animal subjects.

Sketches are primarily of animals such as eagles, lions and other cats (including the Jungle Book character Bagheera), horses, Pekingese dogs, pelicans, and squirrels. Also found are sketches of various other animals including buffalo, bulls, calves, cats, dogs, goats, lambs, and pigs; anatomy and figure sketches; and a series of sketches executed on a trip to Mexico in 1938.

One folder consists of six colored sketches of a Cambridge house by Mary L. Provost.

Series is scanned in entirety.

Box 6, Folder 33  Abstract Sketches, circa 1945-circa 1955
                Image(s)
                Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 2 and OV 20

Box 6, Folder 34  Anatomy Sketches, circa 1929-1930s
                Image(s)
                Oversized material housed in OV 20

Box 6, Folder 35  Animal Prints, circa 1930s-1940s
                Image(s)

Box 6  Animal Sketches

Box 6, Folder 36  Animals, Various, circa 1920s
                Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 37  Animals, Various, circa 1920s
                Image(s)
                Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 3

Box 6, Folder 38  Animals, Various, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
                Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 39  Animals, Various, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
                Image(s)
                Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folders 3-5, Box 10, Folders 1-2, and OV 20, 21

Box 6, Folder 40  Eagles, circa 1940s
Box 6, Folder 41  Eagles, circa 1940s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 42  Eagles, circa 1940s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 43  Eagles, circa 1940s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 44  Eagles, circa 1940s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 45  Eagles, circa 1940s  Image(s)
               Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folders 3-4, and OV 22
Box 6, Folder 46  Horses, circa 1920s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 47  Horses, circa 1920s  Image(s)
               Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 5
Box 6, Folder 48  Horses, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  Image(s)
               Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 5
Box 6, Folder 49  Lions and Other Cats, 1920s  Image(s)
               Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 6
Box 6, Folder 50  Lions and Other Cats, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 51  Lions and Other Cats, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  Image(s)
               Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folders 6-7 and OV's 23-24
Box 6, Folder 52  Pekingese, circa 1920s  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 53  Pekingese, circa 1920s
Box 6, Folder 54  
Pekingese, circa 1920s  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 8

Box 6, Folder 55  
Pelicans, 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 56  
Pelicans, 1940s  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 9

Box 6, Folder 57  
Polar Bear, circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 58  
Skunk, 1943  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 59  
Squirrels, circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 60  
Striped Tiger Couple, circa 1940s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 61  
Three-Toed Sloth, circa 1939  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 62  
Figure and Head Sketches, circa 1920s  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 63  
Figure and Head Sketches, circa 1930s-circa 1950s  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folders 10-12 and OV 25-26

Box 6, Folder 64  
Future Sculpture Ideas, circa 1940s  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 13

Box 6, Folder 65  
Jewelry Designs, circa 1955  
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 66  
Line Drawings, 1942  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 1  
Mexico Trip Sketches, 1938
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<tr>
<th>Box 7, Folder 2</th>
<th>Mexico Trip Sketches, 1938</th>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 3</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Sketches and Notes, circa 1920s-circa 1960s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 4</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Sketches and Notes, circa 1920s-circa 1960s</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 14</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 5</td>
<td>&quot;Sketch for Dead Chamois&quot;, circa 1953</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 6</td>
<td>Drawings by Mary L. Provost of Cambridge House and Fabric, circa 1950s</td>
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<td>Box 9, Folder 2</td>
<td>Oversized Abstract Sketches scanned with Box 6, Folder 33</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Oversized Animal Sketches</td>
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<td>Box 9, Folder 3</td>
<td>Animals, Various scanned with Box 6, Folders 37 and 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 4-5</td>
<td>Animals, Various scanned with Box 6, Folder 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1-2</td>
<td>Animals, Various scanned with Box 6, Folder 39</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 3-4</td>
<td>Eagles scanned with Box 6, Folder 45</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 5</td>
<td>Horses scanned with Box 6, Folders 47-48</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 6-7</td>
<td>Lions and Other Cats scanned with Box 6, Folders 49 and 51</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 8</td>
<td>Pekingese scanned with Box 6, Folder 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 9</td>
<td>Pelicans scanned with Box 6, Folder 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 10-12</td>
<td>Oversized Figure and Head Sketches scanned with Box 6, Folder 63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 10, Folder 13  Oversized Future Sculpture Ideas scanned with Box 6, Folder 64
Box 10, Folder 14  Oversized Miscellaneous Sketches scanned with Box 7, Folder 4
Oversize 20  Oversized Abstract Sketches scanned with Box 6 Folder 33
Oversize 20  Oversized Anatomy Sketches scanned with Box 6, Folder 34
Oversize 20  Oversized Animal Sketches, Animals, Various scanned with Box 6, Folder 39
Box OV 21  Oversized Animal Sketches, Animals, Various scanned with Box 6, Folder 39
Box OV 22  Oversized Animal Sketches, Eagles scanned with Box 6, Folder 45
Box OV 23  Oversized Animal Sketches, Lions and Other Cats scanned with Box 6, Folder 51
Box OV 24  Oversized Animal Sketches, Lions and Other Cats scanned with Box 6, Folder 51
Box OV 25  Oversized Figure and Head Sketches scanned with Box 6, Folder 63
Box OV 26  Oversized Figure and Head Sketches scanned with Box 6, Folder 63
Box OV 27  Oversized Mowgli, Bagheera and Baloo Sketches scanned with Box 7, Folder 5

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Series 11: Photographs, circa 1940s, 1977

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 7, 11, OV 27)

Photos of Saarinen and others include a negative of a photograph of Saarinen, possibly with Eero Saarinen, included with a 1977 letter of transmittal; a group photograph including Lilian, Eero and Eliel Saarinen with the model for the Detroit Civic Center; and a photo of an unidentified woman on a city street.

Photos of artwork by Saarinen include animal sculpture, head and figure sculpture, wood carvings, and Saarinen's Mowgli and Bagheera sculpture. Also found are photos by Betty Cooper of Saarinen's 1944 exhibition at G Place Gallery.

Series is scanned in entirety with the exception of blank versos of photographs and duplicates.

Box 7, Folder 8          Photos of Saarinen and Others, circa 1940s, 1977
                          Image(s)

Box 7                  Photos of Artwork, circa 1930s-circa 1940s

Box 7, Folder 9         Animals, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
                          Image(s)
                          Oversized material housed in OV 27

Box 7, Folder 10        Figures and Heads, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
                          Image(s)
                          Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 11        Miscellaneous, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
                          Image(s)
                          Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 4

Box 7, Folder 12        Wood Carvings for Garden Posts, circa 1935
                          Image(s)
                          Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 5

Box 7, Folder 13        Photos of Exhibition Installation, 1944
                          Image(s)
                          Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 6

Box 11                 Oversized Photos of Artwork

Box 11, Folder 1-2      Animals scanned with Box 7, Folder 9

Box 11, Folder 3        Figures and Heads scanned with Box 7, Folder 10

Box 11, Folder 4        Miscellaneous scanned with Box 7, Folder 11
Box 11, Folder 5  Wood Carvings for Garden Posts scanned with Box 7, Folder 12
Box 11, Folder 6  Oversized Photos of Exhibition Installation scanned with Box 7, Folder 13
Box OV 27  Oversized Photos of Artwork, Animals scanned with Box 7, Folder 9

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