



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Jane Sabersky Papers, 1940-1977, in the Archives of American Art

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

2023/09/15

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Jane Sabersky papers
<b>Date:</b>	1940-1977
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.sabejane
<b>Creator:</b>	Sabersky, Jane, 1911-1983
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English and German.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of art historian Jane Sabersky measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1940 to 1977. Focusing on Sabersky's personal and professional relationships with art historians and artists including Eugene Berman, the papers include correspondence and photographs. Also found are scattered poems by Josef Albers and drawings by Curt Valentin.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Jane Sabersky donated her papers to the Archives of American Art from 1974 to 1981.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 1617, 3471 and 3589 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 papers were microfilmed after receipt. 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

Jane Sabersky papers, 1940-1977. 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

Jane Sabersky (1911-1983) was an art historian and curator in New York City, New York. Born in Munich, Germany, Jane emigrated to the United States in 1939 and served as assistant to dealer Curt Valentin. Later, she was the assistant director for the Department of Circulating Exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of art historian Jane Sabersky measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1940 to 1977. Focusing on Sabersky's personal and professional relationships with art historians and artists including Eugene Berman, the papers include correspondence and photographs. Also found are scattered poems by Josef Albers and drawings by Curt Valentin.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

- Women art critics
- Women art historians

### Types of Materials:

- Drawings

### Names:

- Albers, Josef
- Berman, Eugene, 1899-1972
- Valentin, Curt, 1902-1954

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
- Curators -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Jane Sabersky Papers, 1940-1977

#### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

**Scope and Contents:** Letters written to Jane Sabersky are from artists, art historians, and art dealers and comment on Sabersky's close personal and professional relationships.

There are nineteen letters from Eugene Berman, in which he writes at length about such matters as: his feelings about breaking with Knoedler Gallery and where to go next; the relationship between the gallery and the artists; arrangements for exhibitions of his work; the works of Christian Berard; the proposed Neoromantic exhibition at Princeton; personal matters; requests for Sabersky's assistance in various matters; and his unsuccessful show at Larcada Gallery. Berman refers to Joseph Kelleher, Robert Tobin, Nathan Cummings, Frank Lloyd, and Harry Brooks. Also found is one letter from Leonid Berman thanking Sabersky for her letter of sympathy after Eugene's death.

Scattered general correspondence is from Alexander Calder, Henry Dreyfuss, Karl Kup, Constantino Nivola, Erwin Panofsky, and Saul Steinberg. Often illustrated, letters from cartoonist Robert Osborne discuss his feelings on art and exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and his own shows in Connecticut. Letters from Hans Swarzensky are in German and focus on their early relationship.

Sabersky's letters from Curt Valentin are largely personal but often discuss art and artists. Also found are condolence letters to Sabersky after Valentin's death; a tribute she wrote for Valentin; and nine drawings by Valentin, many of which mimic the style of Picasso. Poems by Josef Albers are in German.

Sixty-seven photographs of artists were collected by Sabersky. Included are photos of Jane Sabersky as well as Jean Arp, Max Beckmann, Alexander Calder, Mary Callery, Harry Grier, Peter Humphries, Dan Johnson, Quappi Kaulbach, Kark Kup, Mario Marini, Henry Moore, Perry Rathbone, Andrew Ritchie, Josep Maria Sert, David Smith, Hedda Sterne, Haus Sur, Curt Valentin, and Marion Willard.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, Berman, Eugene, 1965-1972
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, General, 1948-1972
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, Osborne, Robert, 1948-1965
Oversize 2	Correspondence, Osborne, Robert, Oversized, 1948-1965
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, Swarzenski, Hans, 1942-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Valentin, Curt, 1940-1951
Box 1, Folder 8	Curt Valentin Condolences and Tribute, 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 9	Drawings, by Valentin, circa 1948
Box 1, Folder 10	Poetry, by Josef Albers, 1942-circa 1950

Box 1, Folder 11

Photographs, circa 1940-1960

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