



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Galka Scheyer papers

Archives of American Art
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Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Galka Scheyer papers
Date:	1917-1945
Identifier:	AAA.schegalk
Creator:	Scheyer, Galka E.
Extent:	5 Reels (ca. 1200 items (on 5 partial microfilm reels))
Language:	Many letters are in German.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming by Norton Simon Museum of Art, 1979-1980.

Location of Originals

Originals in Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena, California.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm reel 1905: Finding aid available at Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 1644, 1854, 1905, and 2031-2032 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Art collector, dealer; b. 1889; d. 1945; Los Angeles, Calif. Scheyer worked to introduce the art of the Blue Four (Blaue Vier), Wassily Kandinsky, Lyonel Feininger, Paul Klee, and Alexei Jawlensky, to American collectors.

Scope and Contents

Papers relate mainly to the Blue Four and contain primarily correspondence; also business materials, photographs, essays, and printed materials.

Scope and Contents

REEL 1644: Correspondence with Lyonel Feininger and his wife Julia, mainly concerning personal matters, contemporary events in Europe and America, and Scheyer's efforts to establish the Blue Four's reputation on the west coast. Many letters are illustrated with Feininger block cuts.

Scope and Contents

REEL 1854: Letters from Feininger, Alexei Jawlensky, Wassily Kandinsky, and Paul Klee; typescripts of letters to members of the Blue Four; import declarations; a shipping invoice; a consular certificate for paintings; and price lists of works of art.

Scope and Contents

REEL 1905: Correspondence documenting Scheyer's friendship with various artists associated with the Blue Four and her efforts to exhibit and sell their work. Important correspondents include: Alexander Archipenko, Hans Arp, Giorgio de Chirico, Marcel Duchamp, Paul Klee, Le Corbusier, Fernand Leger, Carlos Merida, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Diego Rivera, Arthur Segal, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Arnold Schoenberg, Kurt Schwitters, Rufino Tamayo, Mies van der Rohe, Edgar Varese, Max Weber, and Edward Weston. Also included are miscellaneous photographs, essays, notes, and financial and printed materials.

Scope and Contents

REEL 2031-2032: Correspondence with Alexei Jawlensky and Wassily Kandinsky, including several illustrated letters; two photographs of interiors; a published article by Kandinsky, "Abstrakte Kunst," ca. 1925-1926; and price lists for works of art by Kandinsky. Some letters are typescripts.

Other Title

Galka Scheyer Blue Four Archive.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Germany -- Collectors and collecting
- Blaue Vier (Group of artists)
- Expressionism (Art)
- Painting, German -- Collectors and collecting

Names:

- Archipenko, Alexander, 1887-1964
- Arp, Jean, 1887-1966
- De Chirico, Giorgio, 1888-

Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
Feininger, Julia
Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956
Jawlensky, Alexej von, 1864-1941
Kandinsky, Wassily, 1866-1944
Klee, Paul, 1879-1940
Le Corbusier, 1887-1965
Léger, Fernand, 1881-1955
Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig, 1886-1969
Moholy-Nagy, László, 1895-1946
Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957
Schmidt-Rottluff, Karl, 1884-1976
Schoenberg, Arnold, 1874-1951
Schwitters, Kurt, 1887-1948
Segal, Arthur, 1875-1944
Tamayo, Rufino, 1899-
Varèse, Edgard, 1883-1965
Weber, Max, 1881-1961
Weston, Edward, 1886-1958

Occupations:

Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles
Painters -- United States