



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Elsa Schmid Papers, 1910-1967, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2023/03/21

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Elsa Schmid papers
Date:	1910-1967
Identifier:	AAA.schmelsa
Creator:	Schmid, Elsa, 1897-
Extent:	1.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor and mosaicist Elsa Schmid (1897-1970) measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1910 to 1967. Found are biographical materials, correspondence including letters from Henry Varnum Poor, photographs of works of art, project files, printed material, and writings relating to Elsa Schmid's career as a mosaicist.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 1974 by Peter Neumann, Schmid's son. Two additional mosaic transparencies of Abraham Lincoln were transferred from the Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in 2010.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds an interview of Elsa Schmid conducted 1968 August 1, by Butler Coleman, for the Archives of American Art.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 953 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 on reel 953. 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

Elsa Schmid papers, 1910-1967. 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

Elsa Schmid (1897-1970) was a mosaicist, painter, and sculptor in Rye, New York. Born in Germany, Schmid first studied art in Italy and immigrated to the United States in the 1920s. Concentrating on mosaic, her works decorated churches and memorialized famous figures. Schmid married art dealer J. B. Neumann.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and mosaicist Elsa Schmid (1897-1970) measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1910 to 1967. Found are biographical materials, correspondence including letters from Henry Varnum Poor, photographs of works of art, project files, printed material, and writings relating to Elsa Schmid's career as a mosaicist.

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
Women sculptors

Names:

Neumann, J. B. (Israel Ber)
Poor, Henry Varnum, 1887-1970

Occupations:

Mosaicists -- New York (State) -- Rye
Painters -- New York (State) -- Rye
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- Rye

Container Listing

Series 1: Elsa Schmid Papers, 1910-1967

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include blank stationery, resumes, and a teaching certificate. Correspondents include Henry Varnum Poor, Max Weber, Boris Anrep, Helen Chase, Edward Waldo Forbes, Warren Wheelock, Abraham Walkowitz, Alfred H. Barr, Georgia O'Keeffe, Barbara Morgan and Josef Albers. Of note are letters from Henry Varnum Poor in which he discusses details of pottery and mosaics. A lecture given by Schmid at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts also includes a slide list. Photographs are of works of art, some are annotated. Project files concern plans for mosaics and include material on subjects Van Wyck Brooks, Father Martin D'Arcy, John Dewey, and Dikran Kelekian. Files may include letters, sketches and plans, photographs, and printed material. Printed material includes newspaper clippings, magazine articles and catalogs. Writings and notes are on art.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1924-1963
Box 1, Folder 3	Lectures, 1961
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs, Exhibitions and In Situ, 1930s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 5-8	Photographs, Works of Art, 1930s-1950s
Box 2, Folder 1-5	Photographs, Works of Art, 1930s-1950s
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs, Works of Art, Negatives and Transparencies, 1930s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 7	Project File, General, 1930-1964
Box 2, Folder 8	Project File, Blue Madonna, 1956-1957
Box 2, Folder 9	Project File, Caramoor Clock, 1950
Box 2, Folder 10	Project File, Carthage Memorial, 1956-1960
Box 3, Folder 1	Project File, Father D'Arcy, 1940-1950
Box 3, Folder 2	Project File, John Dewey, 1935-1956
Box 3, Folder 3	Project File, Kelekian, 1944
Box 3, Folder 4	Project File, Lincoln, 1957-1963

Oversize 4	Project File, Lincoln, Oversized, 1957-1963
Box 3, Folder 5	Project File, St. Brigid's Church, 1928-1967
Box 3, Folder 6	Project File, St. Thomas More Chapel, 1941-1960
Box 3, Folder 7	Project File, Van Wyck Brooks, 1950-1965
Box 3, Folder 8	Printed Material, 1932-1962
Box 3, Folder 9	Writings and Notes, circa 1930s-1940s

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