



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Day N. Schnabel papers, circa 1910-1991, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Day N. Schnabel papers
Date:	circa 1910-1991
Identifier:	AAA.schnday
Creator:	Schnabel, Day N., 1905-1991
Extent:	3 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English, German, and French.
Summary:	The papers of Day N. Schnabel measure 3 linear feet and date from circa 1910-1991. The papers depict Schnabel's career as both a sculptor and painter in Paris, France, and the United States during the Great Depression and beyond. The papers include biographical materials, correspondence, writings, personal business records, printed and photographic material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Day N. Schnabel papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Day N. Schnabel in 1984.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 3815-3817 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Day N. Schnabel papers, circa 1910-1991 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Day N. Schnabel (1905-1991) was a sculptor and painter who worked primarily in both New York and Paris. She was born Daisy Nora Thalberg in Vienna, Austria. Her education consisted of studying sculpture and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna from 1915-1918. She continued these studies later in both Berlin and Florence. Schnabel also spent time studying architecture and sculpture under Barend Jordens in Holland. During World War Two, Schnabel was located in New York where she became an Irascible and worked on projects funded by the New Deal. She was also an associate of Ibram Lassaw, Jacques Lipchitz, and Jackson Pollock. After the war Schnabel relocated to Paris where she worked in the studios of Marcel Gimons, Charles Alexandre Malfray, and Ossip Zadkine. She was also associated with Constantin Brancusi, Emile Gilioli, and other prominent artists who influenced her work and style.

Schnabel's chosen mediums included welded steel, bronze, brass, marble, limestone, granite, cast stone, relief mural, found objects, gouache, ink, and other materials. She had many featured solo and group exhibitions while in New York and her artwork is now in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, The Blanton Museum of Art, Musée des Beaux-Arts des Nantes, the Walker Art center, and the Whitney Museum of American art.

Schnabel died in 1991 in Paris, France.

Scope and Contents

The Day N. Schnabel papers measure 3 linear feet and date from circa 1910-1991. Biographical materials include Schnabel's resume, a certificate for *Who's Who in the World*, and documents relating to her husband's death. Correspondence is in German, French, and English and includes letters and holiday cards. Writings consist of articles, notebooks, and journals by Schnabel and materials by Schnabel's family. Personal business records include materials relating to various exhibitions Schnabel took part in as well as projects she completed for various institutions including UNESCO, the Smithsonian Institution, and correspondence with Schuler Verlagsgesellschaft, MBH a publishing company in Germany. Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, news clippings, art publications featuring Schnabel's work, and notated advertising catalogs and instruction manuals for sculpture tools. Photographic materials consist of photographs of Schnabel and her family and friends, a photograph album, and photos of Schnabel's artwork. Artwork includes sketches and a gifted painting by Jose Guerrero, as well as a sketchbook.

Arrangement

This collection consists of seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1966-1979 (.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1941-1978 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1932-1991 (.7 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1950-1972 (.1 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1910-1978 (1.6 Linear feet: Boxes 2-3)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1910-1971 (.2 Linear feet: Box 3)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1920-1972 (.1 Linear feet: Box 3)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- France -- Paris
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Artists' studios -- France -- Paris

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1966-1979

.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Schnabel's resume, a certificate for *Who's Who in the World*, and a death announcement for her husband Oscar Schnabel.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 2	Who's Who in the World, Certificate, circa 1979
Box 1, Folder 3	Death Announcement, Oscar Schnabel, circa 1971-1972

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1941-1978

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is in German, French, and English and consists of general correspondence and correspondence from George Kastlin and Eastman Chemical Products.

Box 1, Folder 4	General (1940s), circa 1941-1949
Box 1, Folder 5	General (1950s), circa 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 6	General (1960s), circa 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 7	General (1970s), circa 1970-1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Eastman Chemical Products, circa 1958
Box 1, Folder 9	George Kastlin, circa 1946-1949

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1932-1991

.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include various titled writings and two articles written by Schnabel, a questionnaire regarding the "Histoire de l'Art Abstrait", her notebooks from the Paris and New York studios, journal entries, and notes on topics of interest including architecture, anthropology, and the Housing Development "Nouveau Creteil". Also included are writings by Schnabel's husband and brother.

Titled	
Box 1, Folder 10	"Autour de la Sphere et Science", circa 1968
Box 1, Folder 11	"Barcelona", circa 1940-1978
Box 1, Folder 12	"Epilogue", 1965, Sept. 5
Box 1, Folder 13	"Letter to a Friend", circa 1940-1978
Box 1, Folder 14	"L'Oeuvre de Day Schnabel dans la Sculpture Contemporaine", circa 1960-2970
Box 1, Folder 15	"Mirrors", circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 16	"Program, U.S.", circa 1940-1978
Box 1, Folder 17	"A Propos du Centre de Documentation Internationale d'Art Contemporain", circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 18	"Temoignages Pour l'Art Abstrait", circa 1952-1955
Box 1, Folder 19	"U.S. 1944, Retrospective 1978", circa 1944-1978
Box 1, Folder 20	Articles by Schnabel, circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 21	Questionnaire for "Histoire de l'Art Abstrait", circa 1969
Box 1, Folder 22	Travel Diary, circa 1941
Notebooks	
Box 1, Folder 23	"Paris and New York", Notebook, circa 1939-1953
Box 1, Folder 24	"Paris Studio", Notebook, circa 1977-1980
Box 1, Folder 25	Notebook, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 26	Notebook, circa 1939-1953

Box 1, Folder 27	Notebook, circa 1953-1958
Box 1, Folder 28	Notebook, circa 1957-1968
Box 1, Folder 29	Notebook, circa 1968-1976
Box 1, Folder 30	Journal Entry, typed, 1968, May 27
Box 1, Folder 31	Journal Sheets, typed, circa 1943-1975
	Notes
Box 1, Folder 32	"Anthropology, Astronomy, and Architecture", Notes, circa 1960-1970
Box 1, Folder 33	"Architecture", Notes, circa 1960-1970
Box 1, Folder 34	"Conference Number One", Notes, circa 1960-1970
Box 1, Folder 35	"Housing Development, Nouveau Creteil", Notes, circa 1971
Box 1, Folder 36	Miscellaneous Writings, circa 1940-1978
Box 1, Folder 37	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1949-1978
	By Others
Box 1, Folder 38	"Decree" by Oscar Schnabel, 1951, Mar. 15
Box 1, Folder 39	Untitled, by Schnabel's Brother, circa 1940-1991

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Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1950-1972

.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Personal Business Records consists of materials on various exhibitions including the *Groupe Espace Exhibition* and the San Francisco Civic Center Plaza International Competition. Also included are materials relating to the Smithsonian Institution and UNESCO's Third National Conference, materials concerning Schuler Verlagsgesellschaft, MBH a German publishing company, and various bills and receipts of artwork sales.

Box 2, Folder 1	The Groupe Espace Exhibition (1955), circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 2	San Francisco Civic Center Plaza, International Competition (1964), circa 1964-1965
Box 2, Folder 3	Schuler Verlagsgesellschaft MBH, publishing company, circa 1961-1962
Box 2, Folder 4	Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition, Itinerary, circa 1961-1963
Box 2, Folder 5	UNESCO, Third National Conference, 1952, Jan. 16
Box 2, Folder 6	World Symposium of Modern Sculptors in Japan, circa 1962
Box 2, Folder 7	Bills and Receipts of Artwork Sales, circa 1950-1972

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Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1910-1978

1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes articles relating to children and religion in public schools, a copy of *Die Augsburg Konfession* by Philip Melanchthon from Schnabel's childhood, and various exhibition announcements, catalogs, and news clippings. Also included are art publications featuring Schnabel's work and advertising catalogs for sculpture equipment that have been notated.

Box 2, Folder 8	Children and Religion in Public Schools, Articles, circa 1945-1946
Box 2, Folder 9	Die Augsburg Konfession (1910) by Philip Melanchthon , circa 1910
Box 2, Folder 10	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1945-1974
Box 2, Folder 11	Exhibition Catalogs (1940s), circa 1946-1949
Box 2, Folder 12-15	Exhibition Catalogs (1950s), circa 1951-1959
Box 2, Folder 16-23	Exhibition Catalogs (1960s), circa 1960-1969
Box 2, Folder 24-25	Exhibition Catalogs (1970s), circa 1970-1974
Box 2, Folder 26	Exhibition Catalogs, 1944-1974
Box 3, Folder 1	News Clippings (1940s), circa 1944-1949
Box 3, Folder 2	News Clippings (1950s), circa 1950-1959
Box 3, Folder 3	News Clippings (1960s), circa 1960-1967
Box 3, Folder 4	News Clippings (1970s), circa 1970-1978
Box 3, Folder 5	News Clippings, circa 1944-1978
Box 3, Folder 6	Magazine Articles, circa 1948
Box 3, Folder 7	Advertising Catalogs for Sculpture Equipment, notated, circa 1947-1959
Box 3, Folder 8	Art Publications (1940s), circa 1948-1949
Box 3, Folder 9-14	Art Publications (1950s), circa 1952-1959
Box 3, Folder 15	Art Publications (1960s), circa 1964

Box 3, Folder 16

Miscellaneous Printed Materials, 1929-1972

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Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1910-1971

.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic Material includes photographs of Schnabel's family and friends, a photograph album, photographs of artwork, and the contents of Schnabel's studio bulletin board.

Box 3, Folder 17	Photograph Album, circa 1910-1971
Box 3, Folder 18	Photographs of Friends and Family, circa 1930-1965
Box 3, Folder 19-22	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1937-1968
Box 3, Folder 23	Studio Bulletin Board, contents, circa 1920-1971

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1920-1972

.1 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes various sketches, a sketchbook, and a gifted painting by Jose Guerrero.

Box 3, Folder 24	Sketches, circa 1929-1970
Box 3, Folder 25	Sketchbook, circa 1972
Box 3, Folder 26	Painting on Paper by Jose Guerrero , circa 1920-1970

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