



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Marlis Schratter papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marlis Schratter papers
Identifier:	AAA.schrmarl
Date:	1956-1983
Extent:	1.6 Linear feet ((partially microfilmed on 3 reels))
Creator:	Schratter, Marlis, 1919-
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

All unfiled materials and the following microfilmed items are gifts: 9 letters (reel 982: frames 1042, 1046, 1053, 1058, 1062, 1065, 1066, 1067, and 1087), technical correspondence and notes (reel 982: frames 1092-1200), kiln log (reel 982: frames 1266-1278), and the majority of photographs of works (reel 983: frames 230-373). All other materials were loaned by Marlis Schratter.

Location of Originals

Reels 970 and 982-983 (part): Originals returned to the lender, Marlis Schratter, after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 970 and 982-983 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Ceramist and art instructor; Massachusetts. Born in Germany, Marlis Schratter came to the United States in 1940. In 1954, she began her training as a ceramist at the Baltimore Museum of Art, continuing her studies at the Boston Museum School and the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine. In addition to participating in many exhibitions, Schratter has been on the art faculty of the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

Letters, technical notes, business records, scrapbook, printed material, photographs, a motion picture film, and fired clay samples document Schratte's ceramic techniques and her artistic and teaching activities.

Scope and Contents

REEL 970: Notes concern marketing and methods of attracting customers, record sales and customer reactions, and list supply purchases and prices for her work (1960-1975). The collection also contains 6 letters from Schratte's colleagues (1971-1973), a clipping, and a blueprint for a kiln.

Scope and Contents

REELS 982-983: Thirty-nine letters to Schratte from colleagues concern her exhibitions and her work (1957-1975). One notebook contains technical information concerning topics related to ceramics (1956-1974). A second notebook concerning the construction of a gas kiln contains 16 letters, a receipt, and kiln log sheets. Seven letters and miscellaneous notebook pages concern glazes, slab construction, and related topics (1956-1974). Eight pages from a kiln log contain notes and 5 firing charts recording the kiln's performance. A scrapbook contains clippings, exhibition announcements, and catalogs (1956-1975). Photographs show Schratte's work (1967-1974). The collection also contains 2 resumes and 2 artist's statements.

Scope and Contents

UNFILMED: Six letters to Schratte from colleagues concern her exhibitions and work (1974-1983). A card file contains glaze and slip recipes. Three notebooks contain technical notes on clay bodies, chemicals, recipes, glazes and teaching (1956-1975), and gas kilns (1965-1975). Nineteen course evaluation sheets are from Schratte's class at the DeCordova Museum (1974-1975). Printed material consists of a clipping (1972) and an announcement and catalog for the exhibition "The Potter's Wheel" at the DeCordova Museum (1976). Photographs and slides show Schratte and her work. An 8mm motion picture "Pots" by Richard Morehouse shows Schratte teaching a class (1968). Thirty-two fired clay test samples are annotated with formulas.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Glazes -- Formulae
Kilns -- Massachusetts
Pottery -- 20th century -- New England
Pottery, American -- New England
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Massachusetts

Ceramicists -- Massachusetts