



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Viktor Schreckengost Papers,  
1933-1995, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Viktor Schreckengost papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.schrvikt
<b>Date:</b>	1933-1995
<b>Extent:</b>	0.7 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Schreckengost, Viktor, 1906-
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of industrial designer Viktor Schreckengost measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1933 to 1995. Largely, this selection of papers deals with Schreckengost's dinnerware design career, specifically with the American Limoges pottery firm of Sebring, Ohio. Found is correspondence with the American Limoges China Company and the <i>Crockery and Glass Journal</i> ; printed materials featuring his designs; a photo of Schreckengost and his ceramics; sketches and large-scale renderings of dinnerware; and three VHS videocassettes. One videocassette dates from 1993 and contains an interview of Viktor and Don Schreckengost, a 1994 videocassette concerns the history of Schreckengost's art, and a third tape contains a slide show.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Viktor Schreckengost lent material for microfilming in 1975. Chip Nowacek, Executive Director of the Viktor Schreckengost Foundation donated papers in 2006.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming (reel 1078) including three scrapbooks dating from 1929-1949 and photographs from 1929-1954. Lent materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

### Related Materials

The of bulk Viktor Schreckengost's papers are housed at Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library, Special Collections in Cleveland, Ohio.

### Available Formats

Materials lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reel 1078 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

## Processing Information

The collection was processed with a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2018.

## Preferred Citation

Viktor Schreckengost papers, 1933-1995. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

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## Biographical / Historical

Viktor Schreckengost (1906-2008) was an industrial designer, teacher, and sculptor in Cleveland, Ohio.

Schreckengost was born in Sebring, Ohio--a major dinnerware manufacturing community. He began odd jobs at the potteries as a child and created his first dinnerware design while still in high school. After attending the Cleveland School of Art (now Cleveland Institute of Art), he studied in Vienna, Austria under Michael Powolny. Returning to Cleveland, Schreckengost accepted a teaching position at the institute. Also, he worked at Cowan Pottery located in Rocky River, Ohio where he designed the *Jazz Bowl* commissioned by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Schreckengost remained an instructor at the Cleveland Institute of Art for over seventy years as faculty and professor emeritus and founded the CIA's school of industrial design. He was equally prolific in design and produced a body of work consisting of fine art ceramics, every day kitchen and dinnerware, sculpture, watercolor and industrial designs including a pedal car and a bicycle. At thirty-seven, he enlisted in U.S. Navy and fought in World War II. He designed prosthetics to help his fellow soldiers.

For the American Limoges China Company (Sebring, Ohio) and the Salem China Company (Salem, Ohio), Schreckengost designed dinnerware for the everyday American table. Influenced by the Great Depression, he believed good design did not need to be expensive. Additionally, he created complimentary design lines so that different patterns and styles could be mixed together.

He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2006. A lifelong Clevelander, Viktor Schreckengost passed away in Tallahassee, Florida while on vacation in 2008.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of industrial designer Viktor Schreckengost measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1933 to 1995. Largely, this selection of papers deals with Schreckengost's dinnerware design career, specifically with the American Limoges pottery firm of Sebring, Ohio. Found is correspondence with the American Limoges China Company and the *Crockery and Glass Journal*; printed materials featuring his designs; a photo of Schreckengost and his ceramics; sketches and large-scale renderings of dinnerware; and three VHS videocassettes. One videocassette dates from 1993 and contains an interview of Viktor and Don Schreckengost, a 1994 videocassette concerns the history of Schreckengost's art, and a third tape contains a slide show.

## Arrangement

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

- Series 1: Viktor Schreckengost papers, 1933-1995 (Box 1-3; 0.7 linear feet)
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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:

Ceramic tableware  
Decorative arts  
Pottery--Ohio

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Photographs  
Sketches  
Video recordings

Names:

American Limoges China Co.

Occupations:

Ceramicists--Ohio  
Industrial designers--Ohio

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Viktor Schreckengost papers, 1933-1995

#### *0.7 Linear feet (Box 1-3)*

Viktor Schreckengost's scattered papers largely concern his designs for dinnerware for the American Limoges China Company between 1933 and 1947. His complimentary designs across multiple production companies is evident through letters included here. Also found are letters for permissions to use illustrations of Schreckengost's work from the *Crockery and Glass Journal*. Clippings are of advertisements of dinnerware in newspapers and magazines.

Small sketches and large renderings of dinnerware are found, some of which are labeled, notably Refridgerator Ware. There is one photograph of Viktor Schreckengost with Kate Smith and a piece of his dinnerware at the Cleveland department store Higbees in 1936. Other photographs are of dinnerware.

Three VHS videocassettes are from 1993 to 1995. One includes an interview with Viktor and his brother Don Schreckengost discussing their "early days" filmed at the Spread Eagle Tavern in Sebring, Ohio. A 1994 VHS concerns the history of Schreckengost's art. A third VHS contains a slide show.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, American Limoges China Company, 1933-1940
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, American Limoges China Company, 1941-1947
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, <i>Crockery and Glass Journal</i> , 1933-1943
Box 1, Folder 4	Advertisements, Clippings, 1933-1943
Box 1, Folder 5	Sketches, Designs of Tableware, circa 1930s
Oversize 3, Folder 1	Sketches, Large Scale Renderings of Dinnerware, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, of Dinnerware, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 7	Photograph, Kate Smith and Viktor Schreckengost, 1936
Box 1, Folder 8	Don and Viktor Schreckengost, 1993 <i>1 Videocassette</i>
Box 2, Folder 1	History of His Art, Cleveland, Ohio, 1994 <i>1 Videocassette</i>
Box 2, Folder 2	Slide Show, 1995 <i>1 Videocassette</i>

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