



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Charles Schucker Papers, 1934-2001, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Charles Schucker Papers |
| Date: | 1934-2001 |
| Identifier: | AAA.schuchar |
| Creator: | Schucker, Charles, 1908-1998 |
| Extent: | 1.2 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of New York abstract painter and educator Charles Schucker measure 1.2 linear and date from 1934 to 2001. Schucker's career as a painter is documented by biographical material, letters, writings, subject files, printed material, artwork, and photographs. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming in 1971 by Charles Schucker and later donated with additional audio and video recordings in August 2011 by Carrie Schucker, the artist's daughter.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 80-81 at the 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

This collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2013 by Rachel Salzman. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections.

Minimal processing included arrangement to the series, subseries, and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders within boxes were not numbered. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

Preferred Citation

The Charles Schucker Papers, 1934-2001. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

Charles L. Schucker (1908-1998), an abstract painter known for poured oil paintings on unprimed canvases, began his career in Chicago with the WPA before moving to New York City in 1946. He was also an educator and taught at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York for nearly 30 years.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York abstract painter and educator Charles Schucker measure 1.2 linear and date from 1934 to 2001. Schucker's career as a painter is documented by biographical material, letters, writings, subject files, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

Biographical material includes a video recording of a memorial tribute. Letters mostly relate to business arrangements with galleries and institutions. Among Schucker's writings are 9 notebooks, some of which include notes from his study abroad. Writings about Schucker include an unpublished manuscript by Valerie Velasquez Louzonis in which she discusses his childhood, travels, and his start as an artist. Subject files touch upon his association with Pratt Institute, Katonah Museum of Art, Yaddo, various galleries, his work with the Chicago WPA, and his friendship with Morris Louis. Over 60 years of artistic work are documented in exhibition catalogs and announcements. Artwork and sketchbooks from the 1930s and 1940s offer a glimpse of his earlier style of drawing.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 7 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1938, 1984-1999 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Letters, 1937-2001 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1934-1998 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Subject Files, circa 1940-1999 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1930s-1990s (Boxes 1-2; 0.3 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Artwork and Sketchbooks, 1930s-1940s (Box 2; 0.1 linear feet)
 - Series 7: Photographs, 1951-circa 1980s (Box 2; 0.1 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:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photographs
Sketchbooks
Video recordings

Names:

Federal Art Project (Ill.)
Katonah Museum of Art
Louis, Morris, 1912-1962
Louzonis, Valerie Velasquez
Pratt Institute
Yaddo (Artist's colony)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1984-1999, 1938

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series includes one videocassette recording of Schucker's memorial service, his marriage certificate and a citation from the Brooklyn borough president. Also included are personal and professional financial records.

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| Box 1, Folder 1 | "Remembering Charles Schucker at the Studio, February 1, 1998", 1998 February 1 1 Videocassettes (VHS) |
|-----------------|--|

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Biographical Notes, 1998-1999 |
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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Certificate and Citation, 1938, 1996 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 4-5 | Financial Records, 1981-1994 |
|-------------------|------------------------------|

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Series 2: Letters, 1937-2001

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains mostly incoming letters regarding business with galleries and institutions.

Arrangement: Additional letters and correspondence can be found in series 4: subject files.

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Letters, 1937-2001 |
|-----------------|--------------------|

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Series 3: Writings, 1939-1998

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 9 notebooks from the 1930s to the 1990s. Included are a research notebook from the 1930s with a pencil sketch on back page of Chicago's skyline along Lake Michigan, 4 notebooks about travels to Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, and anatomy notes from Rockefeller University circa 1930s.

Writings about Schucker include a 44 page unpublished manuscript by Valerie Velasquez Louzonis.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Notebooks Volumes 1-2, 1984-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Notebooks Volume 3, 1934-1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Notebooks Volume 4, circa 1930s |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Notebooks Volumes 5-8, circa 1930s-1940s |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Notebooks Volume 9, 1970s, 1950s, 1954 January |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Anatomy Notes, circa 1930s |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Lists, 1973-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Writings about Schucker, 1939-1998 |

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Series 4: Subject Files, circa 1940-1999

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Subject files contain letters, correspondence, agreements, sales contracts, some press releases and clippings, and photographs of works of art. Also found are 2 videocassettes and 1 sound cassette. The Chicago file contains a civil service job application. Schucker was a member of Yaddo; that file includes a guest list, letters, by-laws, notices, and profiles of prospective members.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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| Box 1, Folder 15 | Aaron Gallery, 1991-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Chicago, circa 1940s |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Chicago WPA, 1999 1 Videocassettes (VHS) |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Gallery Camino Real, 1979-1980s |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Ann Goodman, 1979-1982 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Katonah Art Gallery, 1965, 1980, 1990-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Morris Louis, 1994, undated Includes 1 videocassette (VHS) and 1 sound cassette |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Pratt Institute Exhibition, 1998-1999 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Princeton Gallery of Fine Arts, 1980-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | The Print Artery, Ltd., 1982-1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Yaddo, 1970-1999 |

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1930s-1990s

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material relates to Schucker's artwork and includes group exhibition catalogs, invitations, announcements, and clippings. Also found are items related to the centennial exhibition for the Brooklyn Bridge.

Box 1, Folder 26-28 Exhibition Catalogs, Invitations and Announcements, 1930s-1960s

Box 2, Folder 1-3 Exhibition Catalogs, Invitations and Announcements, 1970s-1990s

Box 2, Folder 4 Clippings, 1970s-1990s

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Series 6: Artwork and Sketchbooks, 1930s-1940s

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes 3 pen and ink sketches with some color wash as well as 2 small sketchbooks in both pencil and pen.

Box 2, Folder 5 Drawings, undated

Box 2, Folder 6 Sketchbooks, circa 1930s-1940s

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Series 7: Photographs, 1951-circa 1980s

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Schucker with his artwork.

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| Box 2, Folder 7 | Photographs, 1951-circa 1980s |
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