



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the June Schwarcz Papers, 1932-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	June Schwarcz papers
Date:	1932-2014
Identifier:	AAA.schwjune
Creator:	Schwarcz, June, 1918-2015
Extent:	7.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of enameler June Schwarcz measure 7.6 linear feet and date from 1932 to 2014. The collection comprises biographical material including an interview, correspondence, gallery files, professional files documenting Schwarcz's activities outside of her work with galleries including files for her exhibition <i>June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces</i> , project and travel notebooks, personal business records, and printed materials. Also found are photographic materials including photographs, slides, and digital photographs of Schwarcz, works of art, exhibitions, events, and friends including Merry Renk, Kay Sekimachi, and Dominic di Mare.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The June Schwarcz papers were donated in 2001 and 2013 by June Schwarcz.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview of June Schwarcz conducted January 21, 2001 by Arline M. Fisch, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Schwarcz's home and studio, Sausalito, California.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

June Schwarcz papers, 1932-2014. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

June Schwarcz (1918-2015), a long-time resident of Sausalito, California, was one of the preeminent contemporary enamellers in the United States.

Schwarcz was born in Denver, Colorado to Percy and Mary Morris. From 1939 to 1941, she studied industrial design at Pratt Institute. Soon after graduating she married Leroy Schwarcz, an engineer, and the couple moved to Baltimore, Maryland and had two children, Carl and Kim. The family lived in Brazil in the early 1950s before returning to Denver in 1954 for a brief period. While in Denver, Schwarcz learned about enameling through the books of Kenneth Bates. She acquired her first kiln and began creating enamels. Looking to nature for inspiration, she began enameling readymade copper vessels and soon began hammering her own bowls. Eventually she developed a signature method of drawing paper patterns and creating pieces from a lightweight, flexible copper foil that was amenable to folding and sewing like textiles. The work was then immersed into an electroforming bath for several days. The resulting enameled or oxidized vessels represented a unique development in enamel-on-metal technique, one that distinguished her among her fellow American craft artists.

Schwarcz died in 2015 in Sausalito, California.

Scope and Contents

The papers of enameller June Schwarcz measure 7.6 linear feet and date from 1932 to 2014. The collection comprises biographical material including an interview, correspondence, gallery files, professional files documenting Schwarcz's activities outside of her work with galleries including files for her exhibition *June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces*, project and travel notebooks, personal business records, and printed materials. Also found are photographic materials including photographs, slides, and digital photographs of Schwarcz, works of art, exhibitions, events, and friends.

Biographical materials include datebooks, resumes, a transcript of an interview with Nancy Sarvis and "Visit with June" digital recordings, a photograph album and handmade book commemorating Schwarcz's 90th birthday, and a book of poems written by Schwarcz as a teenager. Correspondence is with Carole Austin, Dominic and Margaret di Mare, Bob Ebendorf, Deborah Krupenia, Forrest Merrill, Hal Nelson and Bernard Jazzar, Sarah Perkins, Brigitte Peterhans, Kay Sekimachi, Kiff Slemmons, Ramona Solberg, Paul Soldner, and others. Gallery files consist of correspondence, exhibition forms and related material, and a digital recording of an interview with Schwarz and images of works of art. Professional files document Schwarcz's activities outside of her work with galleries including files for her exhibition *June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces*, memberships, notebooks for projects and travel, and supply and procedure files. Also found are personal business records consisting of financial and legal records including several ledgers and record books with pricing and inventory information; printed materials that include catalogs and announcements for Schwarcz's exhibitions, clippings, and other material related to the craft community; and photographic materials containing photographs, slides, and born-digital material of Schwarcz, works of art, exhibitions, and snapshots of events and friends including Merry Renk, Kay Sekimachi, and Dominic di Mare.

Throughout the collection, but particularly in correspondence and photographic materials, researchers may find notes that were handwritten onto items by Schwarcz describing events depicted and relationships to

people who appear in the collection. Schwarcz also developed an inventory numbering system for her artworks. Inventory numbers are referenced throughout the collection. Information on which works of art correspond to each inventory number can be found in the ledgers and record books in Series 5.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1932-2012 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1956-2014 (2.0 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
 - Series 3: Gallery Files, 1964-2012 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
 - Series 4: Professional Files, 1953-2013 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-5)
 - Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1956-2013 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 5-6)
 - Series 6: Printed Materials, 1956-2011 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 6-7)
 - Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1935-2013 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 7-9)
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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:

American studio craft movement
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews

Names:

Austin, Carole
Di Mare, Dominic, 1932-
Slemmons, Kiff
Solberg, Ramona
Stocksdale, Kay Sekimachi

Occupations:

Enamellers -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1932-2012

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series contains a handmade book and photograph album commemorating Schwarcz's 90th birthday, an address book, datebooks, resumes, a book of poems written by Schwarcz as a teenager, a few award certificates, an interview transcript of Nancy Sarvis's interview with Schwarcz in 2013, and digital recordings titled "Visit with June" by Nancy Russell and Cathy Cootner.

Box 1, Folder 1	90th Birthday, Handmade Book from Carole [Austin?], 2008
Box 1, Folder 2	90th Birthday Celebration, Photograph Album, 2008
Box 1, Folder 3	Address Book, circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 4	Awards, 1955-1987
Box 1, Folder 5	Book of Poems by June Morris (Schwarcz), 1932
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Datebooks, 1980-1994 Notes: 2 books, 2 partial books
Box 1, Folder 8	Interview Transcript, Schwarcz Interviewed by Nancy Sarvis, 2013
Box 1, Folder 9	Interviews, "Visit with June", 2012 4 Electronic discs (DVD) ("Visit with June" recordings are by Nancy Russell and Cathy Cootner. The discs date from September and October 2012.)
Box 1, Folder 10	Resume, 2011

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1956-2014

2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with several family members, friends, fans, and collectors. Schwarcz also had close friendships with many colleagues from the craft and arts communities including Carole Austin, Dominic and Margaret di Mare, Bob Ebendorf, Deborah Krupenia, Forrest Merrill, Hal Nelson and Bernard Jazzar, Sarah Perkins, Brigitte Peterhans, Kay Sekimachi, Kiff Slemmons, Ramona Solberg, and Paul Soldner, among others. Handwritten notes by Schwarcz can be found on letters and envelopes explaining her relationship to the correspondents.

Box 1, Folder 11	A, 1998-2012
Box 1, Folder 12	Arai, Lucy, 2007-2012
Box 1, Folder 13	Austin, Carole, 2004-2012
Box 1, Folder 14-16	B, 1962-2012
Box 1, Folder 17	C, 1977-2013
Box 1, Folder 18	D, 1969-2008
Box 1, Folder 19	deVera, Federico, circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 20	di Mare, Dominic and Margaret, 1966-2013
Box 1, Folder 21	D-F, 1964-2014
Box 1, Folder 22	Ebendorf, Bob, 2003-2006
Box 1, Folder 23	G-H, 1960-2013
Box 1, Folder 24-25	H, 1986-2012
Box 2, Folder 1	Hirondelle, Anne, 1996-2012
Box 2, Folder 2	Honors and Awards, Regarding, 1980-2007
Box 2, Folder 3	I, 1995-2011
Box 2, Folder 4	Ishiyama, Reiko, 2007-2011
Box 2, Folder 5	J-K, 1957-2011
Box 2, Folder 6	K, 1999-2013
Box 2, Folder 7	Krupenia, Deborah, 2002-2007

	Notes:	Includes Krupenia's paper on Schwarcz and the Japanese aesthetic.
Box 2, Folder 8-9	L, 1992-2012	
Box 2, Folder 10-11	M, 1964-2012	
Box 2, Folder 12	Merrill, Forrest, 1998-2013	
Box 2, Folder 13	Morris, Percy and Leanna (Father and Sister), circa 2000	Notes: Includes a photograph of box made by Schwarcz in honor of her mother. Letters are photocopies of originals from circa 1963.
Box 2, Folder 14	N, 1959-2010	
Box 2, Folder 15	Nelson, Hal and Bernard Jazzar, 2001-2014	Notes: Additional correspondence with Jazzar can be found in the Long Beach Museum of Art file within Series 3 and the Enamelist Society file within Series 4.
Box 2, Folder 16	O-P, 1970-2012	
Box 2, Folder 17	Perkins, Sarah, 2005-2013	
Box 2, Folder 18	Peterhans, Brigitte, 2000-2012	
Box 2, Folder 19	Publications, Regarding, 1959-1977	
Box 2, Folder 20	Q-R, 1960-2008	
Box 2, Folder 21	R, 1998-2013	
Box 2, Folder 22-23	S, 1995-2013	
Box 3, Folder 1	S, 1961-2014	
Box 3, Folder 2	Sekimachi, Kay, circa 1980	
Box 3, Folder 3	Slemmons, Kiff, circa 2000s	
Box 3, Folder 4	Solberg, Ramona, 2003-2004	
Box 3, Folder 5	Soldner, Paul, circa 1982	
Box 3, Folder 6	T, 1958-2007	
Box 3, Folder 7	U-V, 1956-2012	
Box 3, Folder 8-9	W, 1979-2014	

Box 3, Folder 10	Y, 2006
Box 3, Folder 11	First Names Only, 1995-2012
Box 3, Folder 12	Illegible or Unidentified, 1994-2004

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Series 3: Gallery Files, 1964-2012

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Files for galleries document Schwarcz's business dealings with various galleries and museums through correspondence, invoices, loan forms, price lists, shipping and receiving forms, artwork lists, exhibition material, and five electronic discs containing Schwarcz's interview for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and photographs of enamels for exhibitions.

Box 3, Folder 13	American Craft Museum, 1995-1996
Box 3, Folder 14	Bellas Artes Gallery, 1990-1991
Box 3, Folder 15	Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1981-1995
Box 3, Folder 16	Denver Art Museum, 1992-1997
Box 3, Folder 17	DeVera, 2000-2012
Box 3, Folder 18	de Young Museum, 1964, circa 2005 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD).
Box 3, Folder 19	Franklin Parrasch Gallery, 1990-1995
Box 3, Folder 20	Fresno Art Museum, 2007-2008 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 3, Folder 21	GSC Design Associates (Gayle Camden), 2007-2008
Box 3, Folder 22	Japonesque, 1991-1996
Box 3, Folder 23	Joanne Rapp Gallery, 1993-1998
Box 3, Folder 24	Linda Ross Contemporary, 2004-2010
Box 3, Folder 25	Long Beach Museum of Art, 2003-2007 Notes: Includes additional correspondence with Bernard Jazzar.
Box 3, Folder 26	Los Angeles County Museum of Art, circa 2010 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc.
Box 3, Folder 27	Metal Museum, 2012
Box 3, Folder 28	Mobilia Gallery, 1994-2006
Box 3, Folder 30	Museum of Arts and Design, 2003-2008
Box 3, Folder 31	Museum of Craft and Folk Art, 2002-2012

Box 3, Folder 29	Museum of Contemporary Crafts, 1964-1968
Box 3, Folder 32	Okun Gallery, 1991-1995
Box 3, Folder 33	Palo Alto Art Center, 1999-2003 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD).
Box 3, Folder 34	Richmond Art Center, 2012
Box 3, Folder 35	San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1983-2004
Box 3, Folder 36	Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim, 1971-1976
Box 3, Folder 37	Snyderman Gallery, 2002-2003
Box 4, Folder 1	Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, 2009 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc.
Box 4, Folder 2	Susan Cummins Gallery, 1989-2002
Box 4, Folder 3-4	Sybaris Gallery, 1989-2004

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Series 4: Professional Files, 1953-2013

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Files in this series document Schwarcz's professional activities outside of her dealings with galleries. Included are artist statements, records regarding book projects, a memorial essay by Schwarcz in honor of Margery Anneberg, project materials and patterns, conference and workshop records, etchings created by Schwarcz at the La Jolla Art Center, files for the Eureka and Western States Art Federation fellowships, Schwarcz's supply and procedure files for working with enamels and plating, and digital recordings including a segment on Schwarcz for KQED's Spark Art Series and presentations given at events for the Enamelist Society.

Also included are exhibition files for *June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces*, an exhibition of Schwarcz's work shown at the American Craft Museum in New York, N.Y., the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and the San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum.

Additionally, there are 17 notebooks and 4 partial notebooks containing notes on enameling, daily activities, projects, and travel.

Box 4, Folder 5	Artist Statements, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 6-7	Book Projects, 1971-2007
Box 4, Folder 8	Conferences, Symposiums, Workshops, 1980-2004
Box 4, Folder 9	Contacts and Mailing Lists, 1990s-circa 2005
Box 4, Folder 10	Etchings Created by Schwarcz at La Jolla Art Center, 1957
Box 4, Folder 11	Exhibition, James Renwick Alliance, 1999-2009
Box 4, Folder 12-13	Exhibition, June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces (1999), 1996-1999
Box 4, Folder 14	Exhibition, June Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces (1999), Honolulu Academy of Arts, 1999
Box 4, Folder 15-18	Exhibitions, General, 1975-2011
Box 4, Folder 19	Fellowship, Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship, 2007-2008
Box 4, Folder 20	Fellowship, Western States Art Federation, 1993
Box 4, Folder 21	Fellowship, General, 1956-1962
Box 4, Folder 22	KQED, Spark Art Series, 2007 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc.
Box 4, Folder 23	Membership, American Craft Council, 1961-2011
Box 4, Folder 24	Membership, Enamel Arts Foundation, 2008-2013

Box 4, Folder 25	Membership, Enamelist Society, 2003-2009 Notes: Includes two electronic discs.
Box 5, Folder 1	Membership, World Crafts Council, 1972-1978
Box 5, Folder 2	Memorial Essay for Margery Anneberg By Schwarcz, 1997
Box 5, Folder 3	Museum Collections, 1958-2010
Box 5, Folder 4	Notebook, Enamel Information, circa 1991
Box 5, Folder 5	Notebooks, Daily Notes, circa 2000-2007 Notes: 3 books
Box 5, Folder 6-7	Notebooks, Projects, circa 1977-circa 2000 Notes: 4 books
Box 5, Folder 8-9	Notebooks, Travel, 1988-1996 Notes: 9 books, 4 partial books
Box 5, Folder 10	Notes, Class Projects, 1981-2001
Box 5, Folder 11	Notes, Influences, circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 12	Portfolio, Candidate for Craftsmanship Medal, American Institute of Architects, 1958
Box 5, Folder 13	Project Patterns and Related Materials, circa 2000s
Box 5, Folder 14	Supplies and Procedures, Copper Samples, circa 2000s
Box 5, Folder 15-16	Supplies and Procedures, Electroplating, 1967-2011
Box 5, Folder 17	Supplies and Procedures, Enamel Suppliers, 1978-2007
Box 5, Folder 18	Supplies and Procedures, Enamel and Plating Supply Lists, 1987-1999
Box 5, Folder 19	Supplies and Procedures, Enamel and Other Instructions, 1959-1987
Box 5, Folder 20	Supplies and Procedures, Material and Recipe Notes, 1953-1975
Box 5, Folder 21	Supplies and Procedures, Metal Techniques, circa 1980-2007
Box 5, Folder 22	Travel Records, 1970-1991
Box 5, Folder 23	Typescript Draft, Contemporary Crafts as Art, circa 1960s

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Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1956-2013

1 Linear foot (Boxes 5-6)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of financial and legal records relating to Schwarcz's career as an enameler. The bulk of the series is made up of ledgers, three of which are in digital form, record books for Schwarcz's inventory of artworks, and income and expenses. Also in the series is an appraisal report, business licenses, price lists and dates that artworks were created, sales records, and lists created for tax purposes.

Box 5, Folder 24	Appraisal Report for Donation, 2009
Box 5, Folder 25	Business License Certificate, 2010-2011
Box 5, Folder 26	General, 1986-2013
Box 5, Folder 27	Ledger, Shipping, 1980s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 28	Ledgers, circa 2010 3 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 5, Folder 29	Price Lists and Dates of Enamels, circa 2000
Box 5, Folder 30	Price Lists, 1994-2004
Box 5, Folder 31	Record Book, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Record Books, circa 1962-2010 Notes: Photocopies of 2 books.
Box 6, Folder 3	Record Book, Income and Expenses, 1962-1992
Box 6, Folder 4	Record Book, Inventory, 2005-2010
Box 6, Folder 5-6	Sales, 1959-2007
Box 6, Folder 7	Tax Lists, 1956-1966

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Series 6: Printed Materials, 1956-2011

1 Linear foot (Boxes 6-7)

Scope and Contents: Series includes booklets and brochures, clippings, announcements and catalogs for Schwarcz's exhibitions, invitations, reports, and the books *Art in America* and *Material Witness: Masters from California Crafts* which includes handwritten notations.

Box 6, Folder 8	Booklets and Brochures, 1998-2010
Box 6, Folder 9	Books, 1960-2000 Notes: The folder contains two books: <i>Art in America</i> and <i>Material Witness: Masters from California Crafts</i> which includes handwritten notations.
Box 6, Folder 10-14	Clippings, 1959-circa 2010
Box 6, Folder 15-17	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950s-1970s
Box 7, Folder 1-13	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1970s-2011
Box 7, Folder 14	Invitations, circa 1996
Box 7, Folder 15	Miscellaneous, 1957-2002
Box 7, Folder 16	Reports, 1958-1999

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Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1935-2013

1 Linear foot (Boxes 7-9)

Scope and Contents: The series contains portraits and childhood photographs of Schwarcz; personal snapshots of Schwarcz with friends including artists Kay Sekimachi, Merry Renk, Dominic di Mare, and others; travel photos, publicity photos, and photos of works of art; and slides for lectures on Schwarcz's design influences and sources, her home and art collection, and her enamel work. Also included in the series are digital images of Schwarcz's home photographed by Leslie Williamson and works of art.

Box 7, Folder 17	Schwarcz, circa 1935-circa 2009
Box 7, Folder 18	Schwarcz, Leroy, circa 1960
Box 7, Folder 19	Schwarcz's Home by Leslie Williamson, 2010 1 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 7, Folder 20	Schwarcz Art Collection, circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 21-22	Personal Snapshots, circa 1990-circa 2010
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Exhibitions, 1959-2012
Box 8, Folder 3	Installation at de Young Museum, 1964
Box 8, Folder 4	Nature and Design, circa 1970s
Box 8, Folder 5	Lecture Slides, circa 1980-circa 1995
Box 8, Folder 6	Lecture Slides, circa 1980-circa 1995
Box 9, Folder 1	Travel, circa 1980s
Box 9, Folder 2	Window Displays in Baltimore, 1943-1944
Box 9, Folder 3	Photographs of Schwarcz and Others by Jeannine Falino, 2004-2008
Box 9, Folder 4	Works of Art, 1963-circa 2000
Box 9, Folder 5	Works of Art, 2013 2 Electronic discs (CD)

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