



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Joseph Randall Shapiro and Jory Shapiro papers

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joseph Randall Shapiro and Jory Shapiro papers
Date:	1943-1985
Identifier:	AAA.shapjose
Creator:	Shapiro, Joseph Randall Shapiro, Jory
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet ((on 1 microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reel 3759 (fr. 1-320) donated 1986; and material on fr. 323-569 lent for microfilming 1986 all by Joseph R. Shapiro.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3759 available 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

Born 1904. Died 1996. Joseph Shapiro began collecting in 1942 and was drawn to works in the Surrealist tradition. While establishing one of the most important art collections in Chicago, Shapiro and his wife Jory enjoyed personal friendships with artists and used their collection to educate and increase public appreciation of modern art in Chicago. Shapiro was a founder of the Museum of Contemporary Art and served on its board as President from 1967 until 1974.

Scope and Contents

Letters, scrapbooks, and printed material documenting the development of the Shapiro's art collection. Correspondence, primarily from dealers, museums, art organizations and artists, includes letters from Enrico Baj, Aaron Bohrod (recommending Ben Shahn as a muralist), George Buehr, Jose Luis Cuevas, Leon Golub, Margo Hoff, Miyoko Ito, Sidney Janis, Ellen Lanyon, Pierre Matisse, Ida Meyer-Chagall (discussing her father's work), Abbott Pattison, Irving Petlin, Abraham Rattner, and Kay Sage Tanguy (discussing her

husband's work). Printed material consists of 11 exhibition announcements and catalogs (1952-1984), and clippings (1965-1985).

Scope and Contents

Four scrapbooks (1943-1955) contain clippings, some dealing with the "Art to Live With" program, exhibition catalogs, a letter from Richard Daley (1958), a 3-page typescript "Surrealism Then and Now" by Doris Lane Butler (1958), press releases (1959), and a letter from R. J. Nedved of the Illinois Society of Architects (1967).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Surrealism -- Collectors and collecting

Names:

- Baj, Enrico, 1924-
- Bohrod, Aaron
- Buehr, George Frederick, 1905-1983
- Chagall, Marc, 1887-1985
- Cuevas, José Luis, 1934-
- Golub, Leon, 1922-2004
- Hoff, Margo
- Ito, Miyoko, 1918-1983
- Janis, Sidney, 1896-1989
- Lanyon, Ellen
- Matisse, Pierre, 1900-1989
- Pattison, Abbott L. (Abbott Lawrence), 1916-1999
- Petlin, Irving, 1934-2018
- Rattner, Abraham
- Sage, Kay
- Tanguy, Yves, 1900-1955

Occupations:

- Art patrons