



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Myrna Shiras Papers, 1954-1976, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2023/01/18

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Myrna Shiras papers
<b>Date:</b>	1954-1976
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.shirmyrn
<b>Creator:</b>	Shiras, Myrna, 1936-
<b>Extent:</b>	0.7 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of mixed-media artist Myrna Shiras measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1954 to 1976. Found are artworks including pencil studies for works, biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, photographs, and printed material. Also found is a transcript of an interview with Shiras conducted by Merrilyn Duzy.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1976 by Myrna Shiras.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Myrna Shiras papers, 1954-1976. 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## **Biographical / Historical**

Myrna Shiras (1934-2019) was a mixed-media artist active in California. She was active in feminist organizations and in the promotion of women artists.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The papers of mixed-media artist Myrna Shiras measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1954 to 1976. Found are artworks including pencil studies for works, biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, photographs, and printed material. Also found is a transcript of an interview with Shiras conducted by Merrilyn Duzy.

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## **Arrangement**

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

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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:

Women artists

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Occupations:

Mixed-media artists -- California

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Myrna Shiras Papers, 1954-1976

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Artworks consist of pencil drawings on tracing paper as studies for sculptures. Biographical materials include a resume and biographical sketch, and clippings regarding Shiras's wedding in 1956. Also found is a writing by Shiras entitled "A Sum of Small Vulgarities."

Early correspondence is with family and includes a note from David Shiras's mother Josefa Wilson to the Haupt family as well as a letter from David Shiras to Myrna. Correspondence from the 1970s is largely with feminist art organizations and publishing houses. Of note is a group of letters described by Shiras about *Black Maria*. Additional correspondence relates to Shiras's participation with the Palos Verdes Library District. Also found is a transcript for an interview with Shiras by Merrilyn Duzy in 1976.

Photographs depict Shiras, her friends, and family, many of which are labeled. Also found are photographs, slides, negatives, and photocopies of photographs of works of art. Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and posters relating to Shiras's art career.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artwork, circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, 1956-1976
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1954-1969
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, 1976
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, on Palos Verdes Library District, 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 8	Interview, by Merrilyn Duzy, 1976 May 4
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, Personal, 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, Works of Art, 1969-1974
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Works of Art, 1969-1974
Box 2, Folder 2	Photographs, Works of Art, Photocopies, 1969-1974
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographs, Works of Art, Negatives and Slides, 1969-1974
Box 2, Folder 4	Printed Material, 1967-1975

Oversize 3

Printed Material, Oversized, circa 1975

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