



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Lily Shuff Papers,
1941-1975, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Lily Shuff papers
Identifier:	AAA.shufflily
Date:	1941-1975
Extent:	2.5 Linear feet
Creator:	Shuff, Lily, 1906-
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The Lily Shuff papers date from 1941-1975 and measure 2.5 linear feet. Lily Shuff's work as a painter, participation in exhibitions, and contributions to professional arts organizations are documented in scrapbooks, printed material, biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lily Shuff donated her papers in 1975.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and finding aid prepared by Megan Bean in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Lily Shuff papers, 1941-1975. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Painter Lily Shuff (1906-) lived and worked in New York City. She was educated at Hunter College and Columbia University, and studied at the Art Students League. She exhibited her work internationally and throughout the United States, but was especially active in New York City. Lily Shuff worked primarily in casein, watercolor, and oil, and painted abstract figurative and non-representational work. She had her first solo show at Argent Galleries in New York City in 1947.

Lily Shuff exhibited with and took on leadership roles in many professional associations. She was an active member of the New York Society of Women Artists, the National Society of Painters in Casein (which later became the National Society of Painters in Casein & Acrylic), and the National Association for Women. Lily Shuff also exhibited with the Brooklyn Arts Society and the Audubon Artists.

Scope and Contents

The Lily Shuff papers date from 1941-1975 and measure 2.5 linear feet. Lily Shuff's work as a painter, participation in exhibitions, and contributions to professional arts organizations are documented in scrapbooks, biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs.

Biographical materials include Lily Shuff's awards from the Brooklyn Society of Artists, the American Society of Contemporary Artists, and the National Society of Painters in Casein; as well as biographical statements and resumes.

Letters include those written by Lily Shuff as Publicity Chair of the New York Society of Women Artists and associated mailing lists. Miscellaneous letters to Lily Shuff are found from friends and colleagues. Printed materials include clippings and exhibition files, and more materials of this nature are found within the scrapbooks. The photographs series primarily contains black and white photographs of Lily Shuff's casein and oil paintings.

Lily Shuff's scrapbooks make up the bulk of the collection. The scrapbooks chronologically document her travelling exhibitions and artistic career from 1941 to 1975. In her scrapbooks, she assembled exhibition announcements and catalogs, exhibition indexes, newspaper and magazine clippings, printed material pertaining to professional affiliations, photographs, and letters. Letters within the scrapbooks include letters and telegrams from family and friends in support of her exhibitions and awards, including correspondence with Ralph Fabri, founder and president of the National Society of Painters in Casein; letters from institutions to which she donated or sold her work; and letters from those who admired her work, including comic artist Al Capp. Letters related to her participation in, role on the jury of, or awards for exhibitions are also present. Newspaper and magazine clippings which review her work or exhibitions are predominant. Many exhibitions documented in the scrapbooks were organized by the National Association of Women in the Arts, but Lily Shuff's numerous one man shows and participation with other associations are also included. Photographs within the scrapbooks depict the artist, her work, and exhibitions.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1945-1973 (Box 1; 3 folders)
- Series 2: Letters, 1957-1974 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 3: Printed materials, 1947-1974 (Box 1; 7 folders)

- Series 4: Photographs, 1948-circa 1960 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1941-1975 (Box 2-8; 2.1 linear feet)

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 -- History -- New York (State)New York
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names:

Capp, Al, 1909-1979
Fabri, Ralph, 1894-1975
National Society of Painters in Casein
New York Society of Women Artists

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1945-1973

3 Folders (Box 1)

This series contains resumes and biographical statements for Lily Shuff, dated circa 1945-circa 1970, all of which provide similar information, with updates added to later documents for new achievements. The series also includes award certificates dated 1957-1970, and metal award plaques dated 1962-1973.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards, 1957-1970
Box 1, Folder 2	Award Plaques, 1962-1973
Box 1, Folder 3	Resumes and Biographical Statements, circa 1945-circa 1970

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Series 2: Letters, 1957-1974

2 Folders (Box 1)

This series consists of letters from colleagues, galleries, and professional art organizations dated 1957-1974. Letters from Lily Shuff written in 1965 for her duties as Publicity Chair of the New York Society of Women in the Art, and associated lists of addresses are also included.

Box 1, Folder 4 New York Society of Women in the Arts Publicity Chair Letters, 1965

Box 1, Folder 5 Miscellaneous Letters, 1957-1974

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Series 3: Printed Materials, 1947-1974

7 Folders (Box 1)

This series consists of exhibition catalogs in which Lily Shuff's work is featured, or exhibitions in which Shuff served on the jury. Catalogs from Lily Shuff's participation in international exhibitions, including exhibitions in Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland, date 1956-1957. Catalogs from exhibitions in the United States, mostly in New York City, date from 1947-1974. Also included in the series are magazine and newspaper clippings on Lily Shuff's art, as well as a published retrospective exhibition catalog for "Ten Years of American Prints 1947-1956" at the Brooklyn Museum.

Box 1, Folder 6	Clippings, 1956-1974
Box 1, Folder 7	Exhibition Catalogs, International, 1956-1957
Box 1, Folder 8-11	Exhibition Catalogs, US, 1952-1974, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	"Ten Years of American Prints 1947-1956", 1956

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Series 4: Photographs, 1948-circa 1960

2 Folders (Box 1)

This series primarily contains black and white photographs of Lily Shuff's paintings. Some photographs have inscriptions which denote title and date. Also present is one black and white photograph of the artist at an exhibition, Kodachrome chromogenic slides of the artist's work, and color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 13-14 Photographs, 1948-circa 1960

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Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1941-1975

2.1 Linear feet (Boxes 2-8)

Scrapbooks are divided into the categories of general clippings scrapbooks and scrapbooks which document Lily Shuff's traveling exhibitions. Scrapbooks are disassembled, with the covers retained. Scrapbooks contain printed material related to professional organization affiliations, especially with the National Association of Women in the Arts; exhibition announcements and catalogs; exhibition indexes; newspaper and magazine clippings; letters; and career summaries/resumes. Photographs and letters are also present in the scrapbooks.

Box 2	Scrapbook I, 1941-1958
Box 3	Scrapbook I, 1941-1958
Box 4	Scrapbook II, 1959-1963
Box 5	Scrapbook III, 1963-1968
Box 6	Scrapbook IV, 1968-1975
Box 7	Traveling Shows Scrapbook I, 1960-1967
Box 8	Traveling Shows Scrapbook II, 1968-1965

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