



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Marian Simpson Papers, 1934-1964, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/02/10

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marian Simpson papers
Date:	1934-1964
Identifier:	AAA.simpmari
Creator:	Simpson, Marian Hahn, 1899-1978
Extent:	2 Microfilm reels
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and muralist Marian Simpson date from 1934 to 1963. Found is a letter, photographs, and clippings relating to her mural at the Alameda County Court House in Oakland, California entitled <i>Opus Sectile</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection on Reel NDA01 was loaned for microfilming by Marian Simpson and returned after filming. The material on reel NDA 3 was lent in 1964 by Lewis Ferbrache and returned after filming.

Location of Originals

Reel NDA 1: Originals were returned to Marian Simpson after microfilming. Reel NDA 3: Originals were returned to Lewis Ferbrache after microfilming.

Available Formats

The collection was microfilmed onto 35mm microfilm reels NDA01 and NDA03. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reels NDA01 and NDA03 and was returned to Marian Simpson and Lewis Febrache after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Marian Simpson papers, 1934-1964. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

Marian Simpson (1899-1978) was a painter and muralist from Berkeley, California. She participated in the Federal Art Project, Works Progress Administration.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and muralist Marian Simpson date from 1934 to 1963. Found is a letter, photographs, and clippings relating to her mural at the Alameda County Court House in Oakland, California entitled *Opus Sectile*.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters

Names:

Federal Art Project (Calif.)

Occupations:

Muralists -- California -- Berkeley
Painters -- California -- Berkeley

Container Listing

Series 1: Marian Simpson Papers, 1934-1964

Scope and Contents: A letter from Marian Simpson to Lewis Febrache and photographs concern her mural at the Alameda Court House in Oakland, California. Photographs include details of the mural, images of Simpson and others painting, and photos of the marble being cut. Clippings also concern Simpson's mural.

Reel NDA01.simpson, [Letter and Photographs, 1934-1964](#)
Frame 945-958

Reel NDA03.simpson, [Clippings, 1934-circa 1940](#)
Frame 21-29

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