



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Suzanne Mullett Smith Papers, 1913-1992, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2022 November 23

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Suzanne Mullett Smith papers
Date:	1913-1992
Identifier:	AAA.smitsuza
Creator:	Smith, Suzanne Mullett
Extent:	3.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Suzanne Mullett Smith measure 3.3 linear feet and date from 1913 to 1992. The papers document her career as a painter and art historian through artist statements, a resume, correspondence, personal photographs, sketches and sketchbook, and other professional material; class and course notes, articles, and other writings; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs and other printed material; research material related to Arthur Dove consisting of correspondence, notes, Master's Thesis, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and photographs of Dove's works.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels 2425-2426 donated 1972 by Nathaly Baum. Material on reel 1043 lent for microfilming 1976 by Smith, and except for the 1976 revised thesis, was subsequently donated along with the unmicrofilmed material 1992 by Daisy Mullett Smith, Smith's daughter.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1043 and 2425-2426 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Suzanne Mullett Smith Papers, 1913-1992. 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

Suzanne Mullett Smith (1913-1989) was an art historian, author, and painter who lived primarily in the Washington, D.C. area. She wrote her 1944 American University Master's Thesis on Arthur Dove, entitled "Arthur G. Dove: A Study in Contemporary Art." In 1976, she completed a revised edition of this thesis.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Suzanne Mullett Smith measure 3.3 linear feet and date from 1913 to 1992. The papers document her career as a painter and art historian through artist statements, a resume, correspondence, personal photographs, sketches and sketchbook, and other professional material; class and course notes, articles, and other writings; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs and other printed material; research material related to Arthur Dove consisting of correspondence, notes, Master's Thesis, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and photographs of Dove's works.

Professional material includes artists statements and a resume, work with American University and the National Society of Arts and Letters, and correspondence including letters to her husband, Gordon H. Smith. Also included are some of her sketches and sketchbooks and photographs of Smith, Smith with family and friends, and Smith's wedding album.

Writings consist of class notes from Smith's studies at American University and a number of articles written by her. Articles include "A Testimony of Healing," "Art and the War," and "(Jose Clemente) Orozco Paints."

Printed material consists of newspaper and magazine clippings, a scrapbook of clippings, and exhibition announcements and catalogs.

Research material on Arthur Dove consist of Smith's thesis statement, draft and 1944 version of her Master's thesis, correspondence with Dove, research notes, newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, photographs of Dove's works, a catalog of Dove's artwork, and an index card inventory. Also included are a number of microfilm reels of material on Dove.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

- Series 1: Professional Activity Files, 1913-1989 (0.8 linear feet; Box 1, 4, OV 6)
- Series 2: Writings, 1923-1975 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1923-1992 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Arthur Dove Research Material, 1932-1988 (1.6 linear feet; Boxes 2-5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painting, American
Women art historians

Names:

Alan, Charles, 1908?-1975
American Art Research Council
American University (Washington, D.C.). Fine Arts Dept. -- Faculty
Dove, Arthur Garfield, 1880-1946
Jewell, Edward Alden, 1888-1947
O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986
Phillips, Duncan, 1886-1966
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

Occupations:

Art historians -- Washington (D.C.)
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

AAA.smitsuza holdings	
Reel 1043.smith	AAA - microfilm ILL- no restrictions
Reel 2425.smith	AAA - microfilm ILL- pub. restricted Notes: AAA - microfilm ILL- pub. restricted
Reel 2426.smith	AAA - microfilm ILL- no restrictions

Series 1: Professional Activity Files, 1913-1989

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 4, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: Professional material includes artists statements and a resume, work with American University and the National Society of Arts and Letters, and correspondence including letters to her husband, Gordon H. Smith. Also included are some of her sketches and sketchbooks and photographs of Smith, Smith with family and friends, and Smith's wedding album.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1924-1989
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Gordon H. Smith, 1938, 1944
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Material, 1913-1989
Box 1, Folder 4	Financial Material, circa 1940-1954
Box 1, Folder 5	American University, 1925, 1940-1944
Oversize 6, Folder 2	Awards, 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 6	National Society of Arts and Letters, 1967-1979
Box 1, Folder 7	Resume and Artist Statements, 1936-1989
Box 1, Folder 8	School Report Cards and Commencement Materials, 1923-1932
Box 1, Folder 9	Sketches, circa 1947
Oversize 6, Folder 1	Sketches, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketchbook, circa 1936
Box 1, Folder 11	Sketchbook, circa 1940-1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Sketchbook, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Photographs, S. M. Smith, 1932-1973
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs, S. M. Smith with Friends and Relatives, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 15	Photographs, Class Portraits, undated, 1932
Box 1, Folder 16	Wedding Album, 1944
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs of Others, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Photographs and Negatives, undated

Box 4, Folder 2

Unlabeled Microfilm, undated

4 Microfilm (One is on a reel. Three are just rolled up.)

Notes: Microfilm material may be duplicates of reels already available to researchers, but they may contain additional correspondence, printed material, professional activity, or material related to Arthur Dove. Only one is on a reel, and the other three are rolled up.

Contact Reference Services about accessing microfilm material.

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Series 2: Writings, 1923-1975

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of class notes from Smith's studies at American University and a number of articles written by her. Articles include "A Testimony of Healing," "Art and the War," and "(Jose Clemente) Orozco Paints."

Box 1, Folder 19	"A Testimony of Healing", undated
Box 1, Folder 20	"A Tribute to Edward Everett Norwood, C.S.B.", 1975
Box 1, Folder 22	"Art and the War", undated
Box 1, Folder 23	"Franklin Pierce Homestead", undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Holton-Arms School Art Department Report for 1960-1961, 1961
Box 1, Folder 25	"(Jose Clemente) Orozco Paints", undated
Box 1, Folder 26	"Tent Show, Inc.", undated
Box 1, Folder 27	"Selected Poems Marsden Hartley", undated
Box 1, Folder 28-34	Class Notes, 1932-1947
Box 1, Folder 35	Class Notes, circa 1951
Box 1, Folder 36-37	Class Notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Class Notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Miscellaneous, circa 1923

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1923-1992

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of newspaper and magazine clippings, a scrapbook of clippings, and exhibition announcements and catalogs.

Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Announcements, undated, 1942, 1992
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Catalogs, undated, 1937-1950, 1992
Box 2, Folder 6	"The Language of Design" by C. Law Watkins, 1946
Box 2, Folder 7	Peter Hurd, 1959-1970
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Newspaper Clippings, 1923-1986
Box 2, Folder 10	Scrapbook, Clippings, 1924-1941
Box 2, Folder 11	C. Law Watkins, 1945-1946
Box 2, Folder 12	Miscellaneous, undated, 1940, 1992

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Series 4: Arthur Dove Research Material, 1932-1988

1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-5)

Scope and Contents: Research material on Arthur Dove consist of Smith's thesis statement, draft and 1944 version of her Master's thesis, correspondence with Dove, research notes, newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, photographs of Dove's works, a catalog of Dove's artwork, and an index card inventory. Also included are a number of microfilm reels of material on Dove.

Box 2, Folder 13	Thesis Statement, 1943
Box 2, Folder 14	"Arthur Dove" by S. Mullett, 1944
Box 2, Folder 15	Draft Thesis, 1944
Box 2, Folder 16	Correspondence, undated
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Correspondence, 1937-1945
Box 2, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1946
Box 2, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1947-1976
Box 2, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1978-1988
Box 2, Folder 23	Transcripts of Letters, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	American Art Research Council, 1943
Box 2, Folder 25-27	Research Notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 28	Exhibition Announcements, 1937-1981
Box 2, Folder 29	Exhibition Catalogs, 1936-1980
Box 2, Folder 30	Newspaper Clippings, 1945-1987
Box 2, Folder 31	Magazine Clippings, 1944-1988
Box 2, Folder 32	Photographs, Artwork, undated
Box 2, Folder 33	Photostat Negatives, undated
Box 2, Folder 34-36	Slides, Artwork, 1976
Box 2, Folder 37	List of Dove Paintings, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Catalog of Paintings 1890-1928, 1943

Box 3, Folder 2	Catalog of Paintings 1929-1931, 1943
Box 2, Folder 3	Catalog of Paintings 1932-1933, 1943
Box 3, Folder 4	Catalog of Paintings 1934-1936, 1943
Box 3, Folder 5	Catalog of Paintings 1937-1938, 1943
Box 3, Folder 6	Catalog of Paintings 1939-1943, 1943
Box 3, Folder 7	Catalog of Paintings undated, 1943
Box 3, Folder 8	Catalog of Sketches and Drawings, 1943
Box 5	Index Card Inventory, undated
Box 4, Folder 1	<p>Microfilm Reels, 1972 4 Microfilm reels</p> <p>Notes: Reel 1 is labeled "Dove Thesis Project Arthur Dove clippings & catalogs collected by S.M. Smith" Reel 2 labeled "Dove Thesis Project Wash Dast Art Exhibitions" Reel 3 labeled "Dove Thesis Project Dove Exhibits" Reel 4 labeled "Dove Thesis Project"</p> <p>All or portions of materials may be duplicates of material found on reels available to researchers. Contact Reference Services about accessing microfilm material.</p>
Box 3, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, 1932-1976

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