



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

John Spencer papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	1

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John Spencer papers
Identifier:	AAA.spenjohn
Date:	1930-1994 (bulk 1933-1944)
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet ((20 items))
Creator:	Spencer, John, 1911-1996
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1994 by John Spencer.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Painter; California.

Scope and Contents

Papers relate to Spencer's experiences as an assistant to muralist Dean Cornwell on the Los Angeles Central Library Mural project from 1927-1933 and to his subsequent relationship with Cornwell. Included are 13 letters from Cornwell to Spencer, 1933-1944, in which Cornwell offers criticism of Spencer's sketches and discusses related matters on composition and current art projects; a photo of a cartoon for a mural panel "The Discovery Era" by Cornwell ca. 1930-1931; drawings by Spencer from a lecture on the Los Angeles Central Library Mural by Cornwell; clipping on board of Cornwell and Spencer working on the Los Angeles Library Mural; and a photocopy of a clipping, 1994, regarding the murals.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- California -- Los Angeles
Mural painting and decoration, American

Names:

Cornwell, Dean, 1892-1960

Occupations:

Muralists -- California
Painters -- California