



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti papers, 1927-2015, in the Archives of American Art

Anna Rimel

2024/08/30

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-circa 2005	4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1930s-2015	5
Series 3: Writings, circa 1940-2002	6
Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1966-circa 2007	7
Series 5: Printed Material, 1933-2015	8
Series 6: Artwork, 1927-circa 2001	10
Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1927-circa 2006	11
Series 8: Video Recordings, 1989-2002	14

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti papers
Date:	1927-2015
Identifier:	AAA.speynora
Creator:	Speyer, Nora Fromboluti, Sideo, 1921-
Extent:	2.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti papers, 1927-2015, measure 2.4 linear feet and document the lives and work of the painters through biographical material, correspondence, writings, artworks and sketchbooks, personal business records, printed materials, photographic materials, and video recordings. Material related to the Speyer family, including sculptor Tillie Speyer, Paris gallerist Darthea Speyer, museum curator A. James Speyer, the Speyer family art collection, as well as material related to mosaicist Omero Fromboluti, are also found.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2022 by Iona Fromboluti-Wirls, the artists' daughter.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Long Point Gallery records, 1959-1999, bulk 1976-1998.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti papers, 1927-2015. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Nora Speyer (1923-2024) and Sideo Fromboluti (1921-2014) were painters active in New York City and Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and two of the founding members of Long Point Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Nora Speyer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attended Tyler College of Art in Philadelphia, where she met her husband, Sideo Fromboluti. Sideo was born in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and was drafted to serve in WWII and completed service Kansas. They married in 1944 and moved to the East Village in New York City in 1948. Both were involved in the 10th Street art scene and the Abstract Expressionist movement. Both had solo and group shows around the New York galleries, including the Tanager, Stable, and Poindexter galleries, and showed regularly at the Galerie Darthea Speyer in Paris, France. They were founding members of the Landmark Gallery in SoHo, as well as Long Point Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti papers, 1927-2015, measure 2.4 linear feet and document the lives and work of the painters through biographical material, correspondence, writings, artworks and sketchbooks, personal business records, printed materials, photographic materials, and video recordings. Material related to the Speyer family, including sculptor Tillie Speyer, Paris gallerist Darthea Speyer, museum curator A. James Speyer, the Speyer family art collection, as well as material related to mosaicist Omero Fromboluti, are also found.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-circa 2005 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1930s-2015 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings, circa 1940-2002 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1966-circa 2007 (7 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1933-2015 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 6: Artwork, 1927-circa 2001 (0.3 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 4)
 - Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1927-circa 2006 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
 - Series 8: Video Recordings, 1989-2002 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
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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:

Sketchbooks
Video recordings

Names:

Long Point Gallery (Provincetown, Mass.)
Speyer, A. James
Speyer, Darthea

Occupations:

Painters -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-circa 2005

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Sideo Fromboluti's undergraduate diplomas, an invitation to Alex Speyer Jr.'s birthday, and Sideo Fromboluti's 1943 Temple University yearbook.

Box 1, Folder 1 Diplomas, Sideo Fromboluti, 1938-1943

Box 1, Folder 2 Invitation to Alex Speyer, Jr.'s 90th Birthday, circa 2005
Notes: Nora Speyer's brother.

Box 1, Folder 3 Temple University 1943 Yearbook, 1943
Notes: Includes Sideo Fromboluti.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1930s-2015

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is primarily between Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti and their family, including Omero Fromboluti, Tillie and Alexander Speyer, Ilona Fromboluti, and James Speyer. Other correspondence is with curators and museum colleagues regarding Nora and Sideo's art collection, as well as various planned publications.

Box 1, Folder 4	To Ilona Fromboluti from Unidentified, 2015 Notes: Regarding published essay about Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 1, Folder 5	To Omero Fromboluti from Mary Lou Stribling, 1965 Notes: Regarding commissioned book on mosaics by Crown Publishers.
Box 1, Folder 6	To Sideo Fromboluti from Carlo M. Fallani, 1971 Notes: Regarding artwork in Sideo Fromboluti's collection.
Box 1, Folder 7	To Sideo Fromboluti from Nora Speyer, circa 1930s Notes: Includes letters sent while Sideo was in WWII, as well as typewritten poems with note, "Moreland's poems written in the Dick period about 1935." Possibly refers to Moreland Speyer, Nora's twin brother.
Box 1, Folder 8	To Sideo Fromboluti from General A-S, 2000-2006
Box 1, Folder 9	To Nora Speyer from Joan Rich Baer, 1996, 2013
Box 1, Folder 10	To Nora Speyer from Ilona Fromboluti, circa 2005
Box 1, Folder 11	To Nora Speyer from The Kampong (Phyllis and Egbert Cramer), 1960
Box 1, Folder 12	To Nora Speyer from April Kingsley, Curator, circa 2013 Notes: Includes partial letter regarding "Emotional Impact" publication.
Box 1, Folder 13-14	To/From Nora Speyer, Tillie Speyer and Alexander Krail Speyer, 1943-1976 Notes: Nora Speyer's mother and father.
Box 1, Folder 15	To Nora Speyer, Envelope from A. Drake, 1991
Box 1, Folder 16	To Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, General, 1988, 2000 Notes: Includes snapshots of Nora Speyer's artwork in collector's home.
Box 1, Folder 17	From Tillie Speyer to James Speyer, circa 1971 Notes: Includes copy of letter to James describing sculpture works and personal views on art.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1940-2002

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings are by Nora Speyer, Sideo Fromboluti, and others, and include transcripts of talks on art and memorial speech for Judith Rothschild, memoirs by Tillie Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, and an art statement by Sideo for Long Point Gallery, among other materials.

Box 1, Folder 18	Essay About Nora Speyer by William P. Scott, circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 19	Long Point Gallery, Inc. Statement by Sideo Fromboluti, 1992
Box 1, Folder 20	Manuscript by Tillie Speyer of Memories and Reflections, 1972
Box 1, Folder 21	Notes on Russian History, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Press Release Draft for Nora Speyer, 2002
Box 1, Folder 23	Transcripts, Nora Speyer Discussion on Art, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 24	Transcripts, Nora Speyer's Memorial Speech for Judith Rothschild, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 25	Typescript, Sideo Fromboluti Memoir, "Memories", circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 26	Typescript, English Paper by Nora Speyer, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 27	Typescript, "Saga of the Snail" by Tillie Speyer, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 28	Typescripts, Stories by Unidentified Authors, undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Yoga Exercise Notebook, 1996-1999 Notes: Includes stick figure drawings and daily exercises.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1966-circa 2007

7 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Files include loan agreements, Long Point Gallery schedules, research on Nora Speyer's and Sideo Fromboluti's art collection from museums, list of institutions with artwork by Nora and Sideo, and receipts for jewelry purchased at A. Desteian Jewelry Co. and shipped to various Speyer family members.

Box 1, Folder 30	List of Museums with Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti Works, circa 2007
Box 1, Folder 31	Loan Agreements, National Academy of Design, 2007
Box 1, Folder 32	Long Point Gallery Season Planning and Schedules, 1977
Box 1, Folder 33	Metropolitan Museum of Art, Research on Nora Speyer's and Sideo Fromboluti's Art Collection, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 34	The Newark Museum, Research on Nora Speyer's and Sideo Fromboluti's Art Collection, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 35	Receipts, A. Desteian Jewelry Co., Inc. Purchases and Mailing Costs, 1967-1970 Notes: Includes notations indicating purchases were mailed to different members of Nora Speyer's family.
Box 1, Folder 36	Receipt for Nora Speyer Works Sent to Denise Bibro Fine Art, 2002

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1933-2015

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs for Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, clippings about Nora and Sideo and various Speyer family members, a clippings scrapbook about Sideo, scattered books and magazines, and auction catalog and museum catalog with annotations regarding Nora and Sideo's art collection and sales. Also included are magazine and exhibition catalog for Omero Fromboluti and Tillie Speyer.

Box 1, Folder 37	A. James Speyer Memorial Service Materials, Art Institute of Chicago, 1986
Box 1, Folder 38	Book, "Artists in Photographs" by Arthur Mones, 1981 Notes: Includes Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 1, Folder 39	Book, "Galerie Darthea Speyer: 1968-2008", 2008 Notes: Includes Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 1, Folder 40	Clippings About Sideo Fromboluti, 1976-2005
Box 1, Folder 41	Clippings of Sideo Fromboluti Painting a Mural, 1933
Box 1, Folder 42	Clippings About A. James Speyer, 1986, 1997
Box 1, Folder 43	Clippings About Nora Speyer, 1991-2007
Box 1, Folder 44	Clippings About Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, 1991-2015
Box 1, Folder 45	Clippings About Tillie Speyer, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 46	Clippings, General, 1947-2010 Notes: Includes article about Long Point Gallery.
Box 1, Folder 47	Clippings Scrapbook, Sideo Fromboluti, 1953-1976
Box 1, Folder 48-49	Exhibition Announcements, Sideo Fromboluti (Solo and 2 Person), 1959-2006, undated
Box 1, Folder 50	Exhibition Announcements, Sideo Fromboluti (Group), 1977-1980, undated
Box 1, Folder 51-52	Exhibition Announcements, Nora Speyer (Solo), 1957-2007
Box 1, Folder 53	Exhibition Announcements, Nora Speyer (Group), 1978-1996, undated
Box 1, Folder 54	Exhibition Announcements, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti (Solo), circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 55	Exhibition Announcements, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti (Group), 1979-1993

Box 1, Folder 56-57	Exhibition Catalogs, Sideo Fromboluti (Solo), 1980-2006
Box 1, Folder 58-59	Exhibition Catalogs, Nora Speyer (Solo), 1959, 1983-2002
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, Nora Speyer (Solo), 2007
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, Nora Speyer (Group), 1973-1996
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti (Group), 1971-2006
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Catalogs, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti (Solo), 2012-2015
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Catalogs, "Three Decades of Sculpture by Tillie Speyer" (May 5-July 9, 1978), Carnegie Institute, 1978
Box 2, Folder 6	Magazine, "Craft Horizons" (May/June 1963, Vol. 23, No. 8), 1963 Notes: Includes cover and story on Omero Fromboluti's mosaic tiles, page 20.
Box 2, Folder 7	Museum Catalog, "Provincetown Art Association and Museum: The Permanent Collection", 1999 Notes: Includes Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 2, Folder 8	PAAM's 10th Annual Benefit Gala Program, 2015 Notes: Includes Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 2, Folder 9	Sotheby's Auction Catalog, "Antiques: Including the Collection of Sideo Fromboluti and Nora Speyer" (New York, 8 June 2011), 2011 Notes: Annotated with sales results.
Box 2, Folder 10	Speyer Art Collection Catalog: Black Basaltes and Jasper Ware (Carnegie Institute), 1983

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Artwork, 1927-circa 2001

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes sketches of a Nora Speyer exhibition layout, sketches by Alice Yamin, a sketchbook by Sideo Fromboluti for Nora on their 50th wedding anniversary, and a sketchbook of watercolors and drawings by Sideo in the late 1930s. Also included is a limited edition portfolio of 12 original signed artist prints, with separate signature panel of all artists plus two additional.

Oversize 4	<p>Long Point Gallery Limited Edition Art Portfolio, 1988</p> <p>Notes: Includes limited edition portfolio of two woodcuts and ten lithographs signed in pencil by twelve different artists at Long Point Gallery in 1988. The portfolio also includes a signature panel of all artists' signatures in pen and pencil, with the addition of Fritz Bultman and Rick Klanfer who's prints are not included. Artists include: Varujan Boghosian, Carmen Cicero, Sideo Fromboluti, Edward Giobbi, Budd Hopkins, Leo Manso, Robert Motherwell, Paul Resika, Judith Rothschild, Sidney Simon, Nora Speyer, and Tony Vevers.</p>
Box 2, Folder 11	Pen Sketches of Plan for Speyer Show and Catalog Images, circa 2001
Box 2, Folder 12	Pen and Charcoal Sketches by Alice Yamin, 1979
Box 2, Folder 13	Sketchbook of Sideo Fromboluti's Pencil and Pen Sketches for Nora Speyer on their 50th Anniversary, 1993-1994
Box 3, Folder 1	<p>Oversize Sketchbook of Sideo Fromboluti Sketches and Watercolor Paintings, 1927-1930</p> <p>Notes: Sketchbook is extremely fragile.</p>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1927-circa 2006

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes black and white and color photographs of Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti at work, in studios, on vacation, with friends and family at various locations, including Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Greece, and Woodstock. Family photographs include Tillie Speyer, Darthea Speyer, James Speyer, Moreland Speyer, Omero and Maria Fromboluti, and Sideo and Nora's children. Also included are two photograph albums: one documents a Galerie Darthea Speyer exhibition opening for Nora in 1970, and one is of Tillie Speyer at work and includes her artwork and installation at the Carnegie Institute in the early 1960s. Photographs of Omero Fromboluti at work and of his mosaic artwork are also included. Artist friends photographed include Alice Yamin, Leo Yamin, Joe Stefanelli, and Doris Staffel. Several photographs, including Long Point Gallery group portrait and portrait of Sideo Fromboluti, are by Renate Ponsold.

Box 2, Folder 14	Photographs, Sideo Fromboluti in Studio, circa 1950s-circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 15	Photographs, Nora Speyer in Studio, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 16	Color Snapshots, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti Outside and at Work, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 17	Snapshots, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti at Work in Studio, circa 2000
Box 3, Folder 2	Oversize Photographs, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti at Work in Studio by Joe Stefanelli, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 18	Digital Photographs, Sideo Fromboluti in Studio, circa 2005 1 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 3, Folder 3	Oversize Portrait Photograph of Sideo Fromboluti by Arthur Mones, circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 19	Photograph and Snapshots, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, circa 1940s Notes: Includes Sideo Fromboluti in the army.
Box 2, Folder 20	Photographs, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti, 1968-circa 2005 Notes: Includes portrait of Sideo Fromboluti by Renate Ponsold.
Box 2, Folder 21	Color Snapshots and Negatives, Sideo Fromboluti, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 22	Snapshot, Sideo Fromboluti and Doris Staffel, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 23	Snapshots, Nora Speyer, Sideo Fromboluti, and Others in Woodstock, New York, circa 1950s Notes: Includes Doris Staffel and Joe Stefanelli.
Box 2, Folder 24	Snapshots, Nora Speyer, Sideo Fromboluti, and Others at Cape Cod House and Studio, 1971 Notes: Includes Alice Yamin and Leo Yamin.

Box 2, Folder 25	Snapshots, Nora Speyer, Sideo Fromboluti, and Others in Martha's Vineyard, circa 1950s-circa 1960s Notes: Includes Joe Stefanelli, Alice Yamin, and Leo Yamin.
Box 2, Folder 26	Photographs, Nora Speyer and Siblings, Darthea and James, in New York City, 1959
Box 2, Folder 27	Snapshots, Nora Speyer, Sideo Fromboluti, James Speyer, and Tillie Speyer in Greece, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 28	Color Snapshots, Tillie Speyer, 1963
Box 2, Folder 29	Family Snapshots, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti with Children, circa 1950s-circa 1960s, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 30	Snapshot, Omero and Maria Fromboluti, and Nora Speyer, circa 1950s-circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 31	Snapshot, Nora Speyer and Moreland Speyer, circa 1940s, circa 1970s Notes: Twin siblings.
Box 3, Folder 3	Oversize Childhood Photograph of Nora Speyer, circa 1927
Box 2, Folder 32	Photographs and Snapshots, Darthea Speyer, circa 1950s-circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 33	Long Point Gallery Members Portrait Photographs, circa 1970s-circa 2005 Notes: Includes Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti and photographs by Renate Ponsold.
Box 2, Folder 34	Photographs and Negatives, Omero Fromboluti at Work and Mosaics, Publication Preparation Images, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 35	Color Snapshots, Galerie Darthea Speyer Opening for Sideo Fromboluti, 1993
Box 2, Folder 36	Contact Sheets, Landmark Gallery Opening, circa 1960s Notes: Artists identified with annotations.
Box 2, Folder 37	Color Snapshots, Art Openings and Events, 1984-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 38	Photographs, Nora Speyer Exhibition Sign, Galerie Paul Facchetti, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 39	Installation Photographs, Sideo Fromboluti, 1998
Box 2, Folder 40	Installation Photographs, Sideo Fromboluti at Landmark Gallery, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 41	Installation Photographs, "Luminosity in Paint", 1980
Box 2, Folder 42	Installation Photographs, Nora Speyer, circa 1970s

Box 2, Folder 43	Color Snapshots, Cape Cod House and Gardens, circa 1990s Notes: Some photographs include Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti.
Box 2, Folder 44	Color Snapshots, Omero Fromboluti Mosaics, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 45	Color Snapshots, Tillie Speyer Snail Sculpture, 1967
Box 2, Folder 46	Photographs of Artwork, Nora Speyer, circa 2006
Box 2, Folder 47	Photographs of Artwork, "Chase un Lion", circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 48	Snapshot, Garbo the Dog, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 49	Photograph of Buildings, "Triangle" by Grace Hopkins, 1990
Box 2, Folder 50	Photograph Album, Nora Speyer and Sideo Fromboluti in Wellfleet, Massachusetts Studio, circa 2000 Notes: Includes Rose and Joe Stefanelli.
Box 3, Folder 4	Oversize Photograph Album, "Nora Speyer: Peintures recentes, 1968-1969" (1970), Galerie Darthea Speyer Opening, 1970 Notes: Album is unbound.
Box 2, Folder 51-52	Photograph Album, Tillie Speyer at Work, Installation at Carnegie Institute, and Artwork, 1955-1971 Notes: Album is unbound.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Video Recordings, 1989-2002

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2)

Scope and Contents: Video recordings are on four videocassettes with a variety of content, including a Long Point Gallery dinner in Provincetown in 1993 filmed by Renate Ponsold; Sideo Fromboluti's talk at an art association in 2002; and a French TV interview with Robert Motherwell in 1989. Also included is a recording marked "Higgins Pond 1972" by Carol Rainey in 2000 and is otherwise unidentified.

Box 2, Folder 53 Video Recordings: "Long Point Gallery Dinner, Provincetown" (8/10/1993) by Renate Ponsold, "Sideo Fromboluti Art Association Talk" (Sept. 2002), "Higgins Pond 1971" (May 2000) by Carol Rainey, 1993-2002
Includes 3 videocassettes.

Box 2, Folder 54 Video Recording: "Monsieur Hire," Robert Motherwell Interview with French Production Company, 1989
Includes 1 videocassette.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)