



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ary Stillman Papers, 1924-1983, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ary Stillman papers
Date:	1924-1983
Identifier:	AAA.stilary
Creator:	Stillman, Ary, 1891-1967
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English , French .
Summary:	The papers of Ary Stillman measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1924 to 1983. The papers document his career as a painter through reminiscences, a diary, and other writings on art; a video recorded conversation with Frances Stillman on her husband Ary, a documentary on Stillman's art career, correspondence, a file of photographs of artwork, list of artwork, and other professional activity; clippings, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papters were donated in 1967 and 1980 by Frances Stillman, Ary Stillman's widow and president of the Stillman-Lack Foundation (<http://www.stillmanlack.org/>); she donated the videos in 1985. Material on reel 1772 and the scrapbook on reel 1773 were lent for microfilming by the Stillman-Lack Foundation, 1980.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm material lent for microfilming (reels 1772-1773) including correspondence, 1976-1979, between Frances Stillman and Clement Greenberg regarding Ary's work; a 109 page reminiscence, dictated by Stillman and supplemented by Frances, covering his early life, his move to the United States, and subsequent trips abroad; excerpts from Frances' diary; and Stillman's remarks about his art. Loaned materials were returned to the Stillman-Lack Foundation in Houston, Texas and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 99-100, 1773 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. 35mm microfilm reel 1772 is unavailable through interlibrary loan until restriction is lifted.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Ary Stillman papers, 1924-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Reel 1772: ACCESS RESTRICTED: written permission required.

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 Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Ary Stillman (1891-1967) was painter in New York, N.Y. He was born in Russia and emigrated to the United States as a child. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the National Academy of Design. In 1921 he moved to Paris and participated in numerous exhibitions there over the next twelve years. Stillman returned to the United States in 1933. When the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed, Stillman shifted his focus to abstract works, and by 1948, his work was completely non-objective. Stillman died in 1967. The Stillman-Lack Foundation was founded after his death in accordance with his wishes.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Ary Stillman measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1924 to 1983. The papers document his career as a painter through reminiscences, a diary, and other writings on art; a video recorded conversation with Frances Stillman on her husband Ary, a documentary on Stillman's art career, correspondence, a file of photographs of artwork, list of artwork, and other professional activity; clippings, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

- Series 1: Writings, 1928-1952 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1944-1983 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1924-1979 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Diaries

Interviews
Video recordings

Names:

Stillman, Frances Fribourg
Stillman-Lack Foundation

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Writings, 1928-1952

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include reminiscences by Stillman, a diary of his travels in Europe in 1952, writings on art, and articles on Stillman by others.

Box 1, Folder 1	Reminiscences, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	"Movement", undated
Box 1, Folder 3	"Remarks on Painting", undated
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Diary of European Travels, 1952
Box 1, Folder 7	On Stillman, 1928-1933

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Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1944-1983

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional material includes a biographical outline, a file of correspondence, a file of photographs of Stillman's artwork, a list of artwork, a video documentary of Stillman's art career, and a video conversation with Frances Stillman on her husband, Ary.

Box 1, Folder 8	Biographical Outline, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1944-1967
Box 1, Folder 10	List of Works, undated
Box 1, Folder 11, Item 1	"Ary Stillman Paintings/Sid Lasher Conversation with Frances Stillman", 1983 May 3 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: This video recording is a duplicate of an original produced in 1969.
Box 1, Folder 11, Item 2	"Ary Stillman: 58 Years of Painting", 1972 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs, Artwork, 1950-1964

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1924-1979

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Language: French.

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings, exhibition catalogs, and a xerox copy of a chapter on Stillman for Jacometti's book "Tetes De Montparnasse"

Box 1, Folder 13-14	Clippings, 1924-1979
Box 1, Folder 15	Exhibition Catalogs, 1924-1972
Box 1, Folder 16	Xerox of Jacometti's "Tetes De Montparnasse," Stillman Chapter, undated

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